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JPRS Report

Arms Control

PARIS CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONFERENCE
7-11 January 1989

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7-11 January 1989

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PARIS CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONFERENCE

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SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Minister Botha's Speech Greeted by Walkout

AU0901104689 Paris AFP in English
1040 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 9 (AFP)—Kenya led third world and Eastern bloc countries in a mass walkout of a speech by South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha to a conference on chemical weapons here on Monday.

The Ivory Coast delegation was the only African team to remain seated as delegates rose and streamed from the conference chamber when Mr. Botha walked to the rostrum.

"Africa deeply resents the presence of the minority racist regime of South Africa at this conference," Kenya Foreign Minister R. J. Ouko said, "as a country South Africa does indeed have a seat, but the regime in this hall does not represent the people of South Africa."

In his 15-minute address, Mr. Botha made hardly a single reference to chemical weapons.

Instead, he listed South Africa's achievements in scientific and medical research, which he said had benefited people from many African countries, "and my African brothers know it."

He recalled that South Africa had pioneered human heart transplants. He did not mention any medicines which might be used on the victims of chemical warfare.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who is presiding over the five-day conference, discreetly left the chair to UN Under-Secretary General Yasushi Akashi of Japan shortly after Mr. Botha began speaking.

Calling for "a war on want" to redress "the imbalance of economic forces" which caused poverty and strife, Mr. Botha said that South Africa wanted peace.

Addressing the seats vacated by African delegations, he said "your heads of state and foreign ministers have visited South Africa in great numbers in the past year."

He said he regretted, but was not angered by, the walkout.

The French delegation to the conference, led by junior foreign minister Edwige Avice, joined other countries in walking out.

Most EEC delegations remained seated.

Mr. Dumas, president of the conference, is not a member of the French delegation.

Foreign Minister Qian Urges Early Conclusion of International CW Ban

Offers Four-Point Plan

OW0801181489 Beijing Domestic Service
in Mandarin 1030 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Report by station's Paris correspondent Wang Fuzhou]

[Text] Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, as head of the Chinese delegation, spoke today at the international conference in Paris on banning chemical weapons. He put forward a four-point proposal on complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

The four points are:

1. It is necessary to resolutely uphold the validity of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. All signatories to the protocol must earnestly carry out the protocol commitment of nonuse of chemical weapons. Nonsignatory nations are also urged to abide by this international norm and join the protocol as soon as possible.
2. All parties of the Geneva disarmament talks are urged to accelerate the talks and conclude as soon as possible an international convention banning the development, production, procurement, storage, retention, and use of chemical weapons.
3. Countries with the largest chemical arsenals should be the first to guarantee to stop the development, production, and transfer of chemical weapons; guarantee not to use chemical weapons under any circumstances; and destroy the chemical arsenals as soon as possible.
4. Countries with the capability to develop chemical weapons should stop development and production of chemical weapons.

Qian Qichen pointed out in his speech: As a signatory to the Geneva Protocol, China is always opposed to the use of chemical weapons. China supports the UN secretary general continuing to play a role in investigating issues concerning use of chemical weapons with UN General Assembly and Security Council authorization. China is opposed to proliferation of chemical weapons of any forms. At the same time China is also opposed to any country's attempt to threaten another country's security under any pretext over the chemical weapon issue.

Urges Early Ban

OW0801152389 Beijing XINHUA in English
1434 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, January 8 (XINHUA)—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen today called upon all countries of the world to work together for an early conclusion of an international convention banning chemical weapons.

Speaking at the international conference on banning chemical weapons in Paris, Qian spoke of the need for the international conference on banning the weaponry, and the Chinese foreign minister said such a convention is "the most effective way" for a "genuine thorough prohibition" of the weapons.

Qian expressed his satisfaction over the "noticeable progress" made in Geneva talks on the issue at the conference for security and cooperation in Europe.

He also said he appreciated the international detente, including improved U.S.-Soviet ties, advanced disarmament talks and the political settlements in regional "hot spots."

"We must lose no time in seizing these new opportunities," he said.

Warning that the fundamental elements causing world turbulence have not been eliminated, Qian urged the international community to continue their efforts to obtain persistent peace and prosperity.

Qian said there is an "imperative need to stop the arms race in all forms," including chemical armaments, which he called "most barbarous and abominable."

As a signatory to the Geneva Protocol banning chemical weapons, Qian reiterated China's stand against the production, proliferation and use of the such weaponry.

"We are also opposed to the attempt by any country to threaten the security of another country under a pretext of one kind or another," he noted.

The five-day conference, which opened on Saturday, was attended by representatives from 145 countries.

Further Details

HK1001041589 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO
in Chinese 9 Jan 89 p 6

[Report by Zhang Qihua 1728 0796 5478: "Qian Qichen Calls for the Conclusion of an International Convention Banning Chemical Weapons"]

[Excerpts] Paris, 8 Jan—At a plenary session of the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons held this morning, Qian Qichen, head of the Chinese delegation and Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, made a speech calling for an early conclusion of an international convention banning all chemical weapons. He also raised a four-point proposal. In his speech he analyzed the present international situation, explained the necessity and urgency of banning chemical weapons, and expressed the Chinese Government's consistent stand on this problem. His speech was warmly welcomed by the participants.

Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen pointed out that for many years the international community has made unswerving efforts to thoroughly eliminate chemical weapons from the earth. The most effective way to thoroughly ban chemical weapons so that mankind will be freed from their threat is to conclude an international convention banning all chemical weapons. The Geneva disarmament talks have made notable progress in this respect. However there are still obstacles to be removed. [passage omitted]

The prohibition of chemical weapons should be taken as an important task in disarmament, Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen said, adding that while reducing nuclear and conventional weapons, it is also necessary to regard the prohibition of all chemical weapons as an urgent and important task and a target for endeavor. He expounded its necessity and urgency from the following five aspects: 1) Chemical weapons are abominable and terrifying anti-personnel weapons of barbarous and mass destruction; 2) some countries regard these weapons as a component of their "reliable deterrent forces" and important factors in their military strength; 3) following the development of science and technology, the renewal of chemical weapons is being speeded up and new types of chemical weapons such as superpoisonous toxicants will come into being; 4) as the technological requirements and production costs of chemical weapons are not high, it is easy to manufacture these weapons in large quantities, and their proliferation has become a practical problem; 5) the use of chemical weapons over the last half century has left tens of millions of people dead. The shadow of chemical warfare is still hanging over the world and threatening mankind.

The world is shifting from confrontation to dialogue and from tension to relaxation, and this has become the trend of events, said Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen after reviewing the changes in the international situation in recent years. Preserving peace and seeking development have become two major subjects facing all mankind. People should lose no time in taking advantage of this new opportunity while soberly understanding and accepting challenges. For the existence and development of mankind and for a lasting peace, all types of arms races must be stopped. [passage omitted]

Declares PRC Neither Possess nor Produces CW
*OW0801173689 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service
in Chinese 1500 GMT 8 Jan 89*

[Local broadcast news service]

[Excerpts] Paris, 8 Jan (XINHUA)—Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, as head of the Chinese delegation, spoke today at the international conference on banning chemical weapons. He comprehensively expounded the solemn and just stand of the Chinese Government on banning the production, procurement, storage, retention and use of chemical weapons.

Qian Qichen emphasized: "China firmly pursues an independent foreign policy for peace and strives for a lasting peace. China is always opposed to an arms race in any form, and stands for a complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and outer space weapons and for a drastic reduction of conventional arms."

He said: "China neither possesses nor produces chemical weapons. The Chinese people once suffered the harm of chemical weapons, and old chemical weapons left over in China by foreign aggressors are often discovered even today. [passage omitted]"

"China has always stood for an early conclusion of an international convention banning all chemical weapons, and has actively participated in relevant talks for the purpose of thoroughly eliminating the threat posed by chemical weapons to international peace and security."

PRC Statements, Press Reports in Wake of CW Conference

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Conference Results

*OW1201123289 Beijing Domestic Service
in Mandarin 1030 GMT 12 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] When asked about China's stand on the results of the just concluded Paris conference on banning chemical weapons, Li Zhaoxing said: We welcome the positive results achieved by the meeting. We hope the conference as well as the final declaration it adopted can bring about the early conclusion of an international convention on the complete prohibition of chemical weapons. [Passage omitted]

Chances for General CW Ban Seen Good
*HK1201103089 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO
in Chinese 12 Jan 88 p 6*

[Article by Yu Zhongzhou: "Hope for Elimination of Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] For the past week "chemical warfare" and "chemical weapons" have once again aroused the attention of the international community. More than 145 countries sent delegations to attend the international conference on banning chemical weapons in Paris.

Mass media in various countries have given extensive coverage to this conference, and people have become more knowledgeable about this issue.

The convening of the international conference on banning chemical weapons in Paris indicates that people are now more seriously concerned with chemical warfare and chemical weapons. Chemical weapons have been used from time to time since the end of World War II. According to foreign news agencies reports, the scale and frequency of chemical warfare in the Gulf war in recent

years was unprecedented since World War I. A more worrisome fact is that more and more countries and regions in the world now possess chemical weapons, and the technology of making chemical weapons for the military is also developing. This casts an ominous shadow on the feeling of security that the world's people have gained in the last 2 years as the international situation has gradually relaxed. Therefore, there has been a common call for observing the 1925 Geneva Convention, which bans the use of chemical weapons. People are calling for a verifiable global convention as soon as possible to ban the use, development, production, storage, possession, transfer, and procurement of chemical weapons and facilities for producing chemical weapons; thoroughly destroying all existing chemical weapons and production facilities; ensuring that no new chemical weapons and production facilities will appear; and eradicating once and for all the threat posed by chemical warfare against mankind.

Talks on banning chemical weapons can be traced back to 1969, but substantive talks began in the 1980's. The convention's framework has been built and some provisions finalized through the past 8 years of talks. However, as the convention's purpose is to put a thorough end to an entire category of warfare, it must involve many extremely complicated technical problems (because chemical weapons are also closely related to the civilian chemical industry). In addition, the talks are being conducted among 40 countries from different political groups and with different degrees of development. Naturally, the talks are arduous. However, as compared with arms control talks in other fields, the talks on the convention on banning chemical weapons made rather quick progress. The banning of chemical weapons is regarded as the only subject on which the disarmament conference, a multilateral arms control organization, can reach an agreement in the near future.

After the talks on the convention to ban chemical weapons entered a substantive stage, they continued to make steady progress. Since 1982 delegations from NATO and Warsaw Pact countries have reached agreement on one provision of the convention and have made substantial progress on some issues almost every year. In this period, although the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the United States' production of binary chemical weapons produced some symbolic influence on the talks, the talks' pragmatic orientation has remained basically intact.

Why is this? First, relatively speaking, chemical weapons are not a major item of arms in the superpowers' rivalry or in terms of national security. The strategic value of such weapons cannot compare with nuclear weapons; and in tactical terms, they are not as indispensable as conventional weapons. The history of disarmament talks shows that it is easier to conclude a control agreement on less important weapons. Second, the two major military blocs that hold dominant positions in the arms control struggle assume a positive attitude toward chemical

weapons disarmament. The East and West have been able to rapidly bring their positions on chemical weapons closer together, mainly because they have been driven by their respective considerations.

At present the convention on banning chemical weapons has basically taken shape. Although there remain some differences, the general tendency to conclude an agreement will not be reversed. Some countries explicitly hold that the talks should be concluded and signed by 1989 by overcoming the remaining difficulties so that steps can be taken 1 year after the convention comes into force to destroy chemical weapons and production facilities in phases within 9 years. That is, the 1990's will be a decade of destroying chemical weapons. Whether this desire can be realized will depend on the political determination of the countries concerned. People hope that they will be freed from the threat of chemical weapons at an early date.

Attitudes of U.S., USSR Said Critical if CW Ban Is To Be Reached

*HK1901133589 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese
15 Jan 89 p 6*

["Commentary" by staff reporter Zhang Qixin: "A Difficult Task—Thoughts Conceived After the International Conference on Banning Chemical Weapons in Paris"]

[Text] Washington, 13 Jan—Since the International Conference on Banning Chemical Weapons held in Paris, the media's concern over chemical weapons has not waned. A commentary in the 12 January issue of NEW YORK TIMES considered that the decision of the Paris Conference has enabled the governments of various countries to show still greater concern over the problem of chemical weapons and their dissemination. But there are many obstacles on the road to a new treaty. The United States and the Soviet Union both possess large supplies of chemical weapons. To reach an agreement on banning the production of chemical weapons and destroying them will be a very arduous task.

Banning chemical weapons has all along received attention in the international community as an important disarmament problem. For years, the Geneva Disarmament Conference, with the participation of 40 countries, has all the time been conducting negotiations to seek a treaty on the overall prohibition of chemical weapons. As far as the process of negotiations is concerned, obvious progress has been achieved. But many problems really remain to be solved. Among them, there are problems that have much to do with the attitudes of the Soviet Union and the United States.

At the time preceding and following the International Conference in Paris, there were some changes in the attitudes of the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Foreign Minister announced on 8 January that the Soviet Union would beginning from this year destroy

its stockpile of chemical weapons. It also said that in the past 2 years, the Soviet Union had stopped the production of chemical weapons. It called on various countries to stop production of these weapons. The Soviet Union also agreed to a comprehensive check made in any area at any time. The director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency not long ago also released an article in the press making known the U.S. stand. It was suggested that the best way to ban the use and eliminate the spread of chemical weapons is to sign "a treaty on the overall prohibition of chemical weapons, which is really global and capable of being monitored." But given large amounts of work to be done in negotiations, it was suggested that under prevailing conditions, the integrity of the 1925 Geneva Protocol be restored to strengthen the power of the U.N. Secretary General to investigate the use of chemical weapons. Meanwhile, the United States also suggested that sanctions be imposed on countries violating the treaty. It demanded that the international community act together stopping the spread of chemical weapons.

Judging from the remarks of the United States and the Soviet Union, their stands have come close to each other in some respects. But they are also not entirely similar.

For example, in destroying and stopping the production of chemical weapons, the United States welcomed the Soviet Union's latest announcement, but with some reservations. U.S. officials considered that the United States is also destroying outdated chemical weapons. The Soviet Union possesses a large arsenal of chemical weapons, most of them being also outdated. The Soviet Union has not openly stated what to destroy and how much to be destroyed. Therefore, the military value of this announcement is still unclear. Moreover, the United States contended that the Soviet Union's long involvement in chemical weapons production has put the arsenal of chemical weapons on a modern basis. The United States started resuming production at the end of 1987. It

also wants to modernize its chemical weapons. It therefore at present cannot give up production. Concerning the problem of monitoring, the Soviet Union and the United States have in principle agreed to on-the-spot surveys. But turning this point into implementation rules is not a job that can be accomplished overnight. The United States holds the view that the problem of how to look into the destruction of chemical weapons and how to make checks to guarantee no more production of chemical weapons is of a more complicated nature than an intermediate-range missile treaty. It can thus be seen that the negotiation on the problem of chemical weapons is not an easy job. It still takes time.

As to the problem of how to treat weapons of this kind before the conclusion of a treaty on the overall prohibition of chemical weapons, the recent International Conference in Paris has played its part. The international community expressed a unanimous desire to live up to the commitment made in 1925 to ban the use of chemical weapons, thus stimulating the progress of the multilateral talks in Geneva. [paragraph continues]

As far as the United States is concerned, official quarters have expressed satisfaction with the declaration of the conference. But it has also felt not fully satisfied, especially in regard to the U.S. call for strengthening technology and equipment export controls and the imposition of sanctions on countries using chemical weapons. Washington had originally wanted to let the conference "use stronger language." It seems that in these respects, the United States will still cling to its own views in the future.

People consider that the International Conference in Paris has achieved results. But the existing international treaty on banning chemical weapons is very imperfect and of a highly limited nature. The United States and the Soviet Union are also countries with the largest arsenals of chemical weapons. Therefore, if they should fail to act first in the matter of banning chemical weapons, then there would in the future still arise a difficult situation.

JAPAN

Foreign Minister Uno Urges Chemical Weapons Ban

OW0701233289 Tokyo KYODO in English
1509 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 7 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno called Saturday for the conclusion of a treaty for a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons at an earliest possible time, as well as to step up international surveillance on their uses.

Speaking at an international conference on chemical weapons in Paris, Uno strongly criticized the use of chemical weapons in the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq as an "extremely grave matter."

He called attention to the 1925 Geneva protocol which prohibits use of the highly lethal weapons which accounted for 1.3 million deaths and injuries during World War I.

He avoided specifically naming any nation as using chemical weapons, although U.N. surveillance reports indicated Iraq used them extensively in the Gulf war.

Uno said nations should consider why the protocol was concluded and appealed non-member nations to join the protocol as soon as possible.

In a 10-minute speech, Uno suggested the conference reconfirm international responsibility to observe a total ban on the weapons, agree to beef up control systems on their use, urgently realize need to conclude a comprehensive treaty including not only use, but development, production and possession of chemical weapons, and to further strengthen U.N. surveillance.

He pledged Japan is determined to cooperate in negotiations aimed at drawing up the treaty for a comprehensive ban on the weapons.

Uno, who arrived in Paris Friday, is expected to stay until Monday. He is scheduled to visit Italy from Monday to Wednesday, and Britain from Wednesday to Friday.

SOUTH KOREA

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung Attends Conference

SK0801042189 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 8 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] PARIS (Special)—Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung attended the opening ceremony for the Conference of State Parties of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and of Other Interested States Saturday, held at Unesco headquarters here with representatives from 160 countries, including French President Francois Mitterand, attending.

Minister Choe, visiting here for the conference, will also have talks with U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi and foreign ministers from one or two more East bloc nations.

He will also meet Japanese Foreign minister Sosuke Uno as scheduled, although there was speculation that the meeting might be canceled because of the death of Emperor Hirohito.

Minister Choe is to deliver a speech to the conference Monday in which he will declare Korea's position opposing chemical weapons.

ALBANIA

Foreign Minister Malile Urges Universal CW Disarmament

AU1101102689 Tirana ATA in English
0915 GMT 11 Jan 89

["The People's Socialist Republic of Albania Has Been and Is for the Prohibition of the Production and Use of Chemical Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Annihilation—From the Speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Reiz Malile at the International Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, January 11 (ATA)—Taking the floor at the international conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons which is holding its proceedings in Paris, the head of the delegation of the PSR of Albania, the foreign minister Reiz Malile, said among others:

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania shares in the anxiety of the international community on the proportions assumed by the armaments' race, especially that of the mass annihilation weapons.

For these reasons the Albanian Government evaluates and hails all those sincere efforts made to give an end to the armaments' race, including the chemical one.

The reality is that the armament with all kinds of weapons continues nonstop. The modernisation of chemical weapons, the production of new ones, both the binary ones with a very high degree of toxicity and their use in many cases, show that the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the resolutions of UN on this problem not only are not respected, but ignored and violated instead. The superpowers and many other states following them have worked out and applied programs on the production and modernisation of these weapons. To the worst, they also been used by causing numerous victims and other grave consequences.

In treating of the problem of chemical weapons, Comrade Reiz Malile went on, exists a great contradiction, which stands in the very conception of the Geneva Protocol, which while it prohibits the use of chemical weapons allows their production and their keeping in stocks.

Although, since 1971, Reiz Malile said further on, organisms of the UN, especially the Disarmament Committee in Geneva, have been discussing on the chemical weapons and the danger they pose, no positive step has been made in the direction of chemical disarmament. It is out of any doubt that the development and distribution of chemical weapons up to the present stage is not a spontaneous process, but a result of the race between the USA and the Soviet Union. It is they who possess the biggest arsenals of chemical weapons, advanced technologies of production and the means of their use, which just as the other weapons are incessantly modernised.

The sound reason demands that when we speak on the chemical weapons, armament or even the chemical disarmament in no way can all the states be placed on the same plane. Both those who are the biggest producers and possessors of these weapons and those who do not possess them, both those who prevent the solution of the problem and those who maintain a positive and constructive stand. To do such a thing means to hide the truth in that degree that it is hard to believe that things will be made right and the situation will be changed to the good. In these circumstances, the urgent demand is made that international forums as this which is holding its proceedings now define accurate, clear, and realisable objectives.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Reiz Malile pointed out, has followed and follows always an independent policy and to the good of peace. In this direction it renders its own contribution. It has not and does not allow in its territory foreign military bases and troops, something which is sanctioned in its Constitution. It has only been and is for the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons, against the production and accumulation of these weapons but is for their complete elimination, so as it is for the elimination of the nuclear weapons and the other weapons of mass annihilation.

We would welcome the achievement of an international convention, that would define concrete measures on chemical disarmament. Such an instrument would assume full values, if it would ensure the final and the speedier destruction of chemical weapons.

Ideas have been also set forth on the creation of zones free of chemical weapons. When such proposals are made from the countries of the region and aim to create and strengthen the understanding and a more favourable atmosphere in the relations among the states, there is no doubt that they are rational. But we cannot fail to say that although such thing might be realised, the real threat the existing arsenals of mass annihilation weapons pose, which know no limit and might be extended to every point of the globe, would not be completely avoided.

To the opinion of the Albanian delegation, apart from the importance in itself of the chemical disarmament as a step forward, it represents only one aspect of the general disarmament, which should be coped with in its complexity and on its whole as a basis for the international security. This means that when we discuss the chemical weapons and disarmament, this should be done in order to take concrete steps on the long run of the process of disarmament as a whole.

In conclusion, Comrade Reiz Malile said that according to the opinion of the Albanian delegation, in this context the United Nations as an universal organization which must be a transmitter of the voice and anxiety of the international community, carrying out in this way its

own mission in accordance with the spirit and dispositions of the Charter and the desires of the peoples that wish to live free and independent, in peace and security, should play an important role.

Action To Implement International CW Ban Urged

*AU1801100489 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT
in Albanian 15 Jan 89 p 4*

[Sokol Gjoka article: "The Most Important Thing: Implementing the Agreements"]

[Text] The International Conference on the Banning of Chemical Weapons concluded its proceedings in Paris recently. The conference reached a consensus on a concluding statement, on the basis of which the participating countries committed themselves to not using chemical weapons and called for an international convention banning the development, production, storage, and use of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

The approval of the concluding statement and the call for an international convention are correct steps toward reducing world tension, and have been welcomed by international public opinion. The harm that has been done by the use of chemical weapons in different regions of the world, even recently, has had dreadful consequences for mankind. Such a convention was called for in 1925, and was reflected in the Geneva protocol banning the use of poison gas and bacteriological weapons in war. This protocol was followed by various UN resolutions on the problem. However, these protocols and resolutions have not been implemented.

Reaching agreements and signing resolutions on various aspects of disarmament represent important steps in international activity. But it is more important to implement these agreements and make them a reality. Statements before world public opinion on enacting this or that agreement not only commit a state, but entrust it with an obligation to act on this commitment.

Agreements and resolutions of different kinds must always be acted upon, especially at times of tension and local confrontation. They must be observed by everybody, by both large and small countries. In this context, such international organizations as the United Nations, where these agreements and resolutions are made, have a greater role to play, especially when they are open to the judgment of the entire world and of UN member states. The strength of international public opinion can and must lead to the collapse of the militaristic and warmongering plans of the superpowers and other powers, and bring these powers face to face with their responsibility wherever international agreements and standards are violated to the detriment of peace and the freedom and independence of the peoples. In this context, Albania has also made its contribution. Reis Malile, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, stated at the International Conference for the

Banning of Chemical Weapons that Albania not only is and always has been in favor of banning the production, storage, and use of chemical weapons, but is in favor of their total elimination, just as Albania is in favor of the elimination of nuclear weapons and other instruments of mass extermination.

BULGARIA

President Zhivkov Sends Message to Chemical Arms Conference

*AU0601193089 Sofia BTA in English
1847 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[Text] Sofia, January 6 (BTA)—State Council President Mr Todor Zhivkov has sent a message to the chairman of the conference of the member-states of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and other interested states.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the wide Bulgarian public see the forum in Paris as a proof of the resoluteness of the international community never to permit again the use of chemical weapons, reads the message.

It points out that the world is on the threshold of the resolution of an unique in content and scale task—on a contract base to liquidate physically an entire class of mass destruction weapons—the chemical ones—and to eliminate it from use for ever. This task is worthy for the requirements of our complicated and responsible time, it is in unison with the requirements of the new political thinking in the nuclear century. The liquidation of the chemical weapons would be a considerable contribution in the noble striving of mankind for a world without weapons and violence. It will relieve considerable resources and will contribute really for the transition from an economy of armament to economy of disarmament.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, which has worked for many years insistently and consistently for the cause of chemical disarmament in the conference on disarmament, as well as in the framework of the U.N., will continue to be active and to give its contribution to this important sphere of international relations. In the future our country will continue to make efforts for the realization of the initiative for the turning of the Balkans into a zone free of chemical weapons, which we view as a step toward increasing of confidence in the Balkans and Europe and toward a resolution of the problem with this weapon in a global scale.

Let me express conviction that your forum will cooperate to the strengthening of the international legal regime on the banning of chemical weapons and will be a valuable contribution to the conclusion, as soon as possible, of an international convention banning the development, production and piling of chemical weapons and for elimination of the stock-piles of them, reads the message.

Foreign Minister Mladenov Meets Libyan Counterpart

*AU0601203289 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
2000 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[Text] The day preceding the opening in Paris of the international conference on banning chemical weapons was a very crowded one for a great number of the delegations, who are taking the opportunity to have bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov had a meeting with Zaydallah 'Aziz al-Salihi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the General People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyyah.

They examined issues connected with the forthcoming conference. The common view was expressed that it was necessary to draft an all-embracing convention on banning chemical weapons, which would be an important stabilizing factor in international relations.

The leader of the Libyan delegation voiced his country's alarm over the dangerous incident in the Mediterranean in which two Libyan aircraft were shot down.

Petur Mladenov confirmed Bulgaria's principled position of support for the sovereignty of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah.

The two participants in the talks voiced the readiness of their delegations to exert all efforts to ensure the success of the Paris conference.

Later, the Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs took part in a meeting of the leaders of delegations, organized at the Soviet Embassy in Paris, at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The meeting, held in a friendly atmosphere, gave an opportunity for exchanges of views on the issues that will be on the agenda of tomorrow's conference.

Text of Foreign Minister Mladenov's Speech to Conference

*AU1101150289 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 10 Jan 89 pp 1, 5*

["Speech of the minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria," Petur Mladenov, at the Paris conference on chemical weapons on 9 Jan]

[Text] Mr Chairman,

First of all I would like to say how much our government appreciates the timely and important initiative to convene this conference, and to thank our kind hosts for their hospitality and the excellent conditions they have created for our work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I note with satisfaction that a fresh and positive trend has been observable in international relations in the last 2-3 years. The role of weapons is being reconsidered in the light of the new realities, and peaceful solutions for conflict situations and urgent pressing world problems are being sought.

The first results of the new political thinking are evident. The USSR-U. S. INF Treaty was unanimously assessed as a breakthrough in the area of nuclear disarmament. The prospects for reducing strategic offensive weapons strengthen the hope of gradually eliminating the nuclear arsenals. Mikhail Gorbachev's ideas, presented at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, revealed new horizons of decreasing military confrontation.

The total ban on and elimination of chemical weapons throughout the world is an issue of independent and exceptionally great importance within the process of implementing disarmament measures.

For many decades chemical weapons have caused alarm and indignation. Such weapons have been used in many wars and conflicts. Millions of people, who died in indescribable suffering or remained invalids, became victims of these weapons.

In the twenties the world decided to eliminate the nightmare of chemical war. The Geneva Protocol of 1925 was signed with this goal in mind. Bulgaria was among the first countries to sign the protocol.

As we have already declared, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is not producing chemical weapons, and there are no such weapons on its territory. Furthermore, the Bulgarian Government introduced restrictions on the export of chemicals that could be used to produce chemical weapons.

We greet the initiative to convene this forum. The statements we have heard here correspond to the intention of the Paris conference—to place the issue of refraining from the use of chemical weapons and chemical disarmament at the center of the world public's attention.

Guided by common sense we have joined efforts to seek ways of eliminating these weapons. We must note that essential progress has been achieved. However, it also is true that there are still differences and unresolved problems.

The issue more and more comes down to questions that directly engage the political will of the countries and affect confidence and the balance of interests. I believe that, despite the vestiges and past stereotypes, the international public is gradually finding a common language in discussing these fundamental issues.

I would like to recall that the essence of the proposal of the Warsaw Pact member states of 10 January 1984 on freeing Europe of chemical weapons, supplemented and specified by the initiatives to create zones free of chemical weapons in the Balkans and central Europe, was aimed at a worldwide ban on and the elimination of chemical weapons.

The positions of the socialist countries on free and equal control, based on glasnost and openness, also facilitate the achievement of a crucial turning point at the Geneva talks.

The promising prospect of eliminating a whole class of weapons of mass destruction is in sight. Such a step would answer the hopes, appeals, and expectations of the world public.

In order to achieve this goal we find it necessary to discuss the problems that remain open in a businesslike atmosphere of goodwill and lack of confrontation, being guided by the conviction that the use of chemical weapons as a threat is bankrupt from a strategic point of view, and absurd and immoral from a political point of view.

It is our conviction that this forum must give powerful political support to such an attitude. This would give great importance to the Paris forum and would facilitate its decisions being turned from wishful thinking into a practical impetus to adopt specific measures.

The problem of preventing the use of chemical weapons will continue to exist until the task of totally banning chemical weapons and destroying the arsenals of such weapons is complete.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria has always categorically opposed the use of chemical weapons and the violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

In this context we would like to impart the following considerations:

First. The reiteration of the obligations established by the Geneva Protocol of 1925 could be an expression of the universal concern about the use of chemical weapons.

Second. Additional measures are required to strengthen the Geneva Protocol, and in the same context, strengthen the role of the UN General Assembly, Security Council, and secretary general.

Third. It would be especially beneficial if the countries that have not signed the Geneva Protocol of 1925 do so as soon as possible. The protocol would thus truly become a universal international instrument.

Fourth. In the name of international security we decisively oppose all forms of proliferation of chemical weapons.

We believe that the signing of a convention on banning the development, production, and accumulation of chemical weapons, as well as destroying the arsenals of such weapons, is the main way of removing the danger at present.

The signing of such a convention would represent a political event of exceptional importance. It would confirm the countries' determination to march along the road of real disarmament. In this sense it would represent one of the most essential measures of strengthening confidence and international security. The convention would be the most significant success in the area of multilateral disarmament achieved so far.

The Paris conference could have primary importance in achieving broad international consensus on this matter. Fixing strict terms of chemical disarmament could produce an important mobilizing effect. It is no accident that the year 2000 is being pinpointed as the final date for the physical destruction of the arsenals of chemical weapons.

Guided by the willingness to achieve greater dynamics and efficiency at the multilateral talks in Geneva, the People's Republic of Bulgaria proposes:

—to give the Special Committee on Chemical Weapons a mandate to prepare the final draft of the convention simultaneously with the opening of the conference on disarmament at the beginning of February.

—for this purpose the continuity of the Special Committee's work during 1989 is to be ensured.

I have been authorized to announce that, in the spirit of these ideas of ours, the People's Republic of Bulgaria declares its readiness to sign a convention on banning and destroying chemical weapons immediately after the convention, and appeals to all states to issue similar declarations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The conviction that we must struggle not only to save the world from a catastrophe but also to establish new international relations, free of militarism, dictate, and cruelty, is a common and international one. Chemical and other weapons are sad children of an obsolete attitude. Such weapons must have no place in the community of civilized nations. As Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, recently stated, it is necessary to finally eliminate the threat of armed violence and "gradually advance from the traditional kind of peaceful coexistence toward mutually dependent coexistence, which will turn war into an anachronism, and not only from a military point of view."

Thank you for your attention.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CSSR Preparation for Chemical Weapons Conference

Communist Party Presidium Discussion

LD2212163088 Prague CTK in English
1547 GMT 22 Dec 88

[Text] Prague Dec 22 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium today dealt with international talks on a chemical weapons ban and reiterated that the Czechoslovak Government is prepared to immediately start talks on the removal from or non-deployment of chemical weapons in Central Europe and on corresponding control measures.

Such talks would give the necessary impulse for accelerating progress towards a world-wide ban on chemical arms.

The Presidium noted that Czechoslovakia does not possess, manufacture nor store chemical weapons on its territory nor are there facilities for the development and production of chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

Government Issues Statement

LD0501164089 Prague Domestic Service
in Slovak 1600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Czechoslovak Government has issued a statement prior to the upcoming conference in Paris on banning chemical weapons. The statement expresses the conviction that the attainment of a worldwide ban and the elimination of these weapons is one of the fundamental preconditions for the process of disarmament, because it would consolidate security in general, reduce the risk of a military conflict, and make it easier to develop mutual relations on real foundations of equal interests. This is also the purpose of the Czechoslovak initiative to set up a zone of confidence, cooperation, and goodneighborly relations on the dividing line between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states declared in February last year by Comrade Milos Jakes.

The Czechoslovak Government is prepared to begin immediate negotiations on the removal or nondeployment of chemical weapons in central Europe, including the application of corresponding verification [Kontrola]. The holding of such negotiations would also represent a necessary impetus for speeding up progress on the road to a worldwide ban on chemical weapons.

Further on Government Statement

LD0501174089 Prague CTK in English
1626 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Prague Jan 5 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia, led by effort to help create favourable conditions for a treaty banning chemical weapons, stated today that it does not possess, produce nor store chemical weapons on its territory.

In a statement in connection with the conference on a chemical weapons ban, which is to open in Paris on January 7, the government stressed Czechoslovakia's readiness to participate in experimental testing of agreed verification procedures.

At the appropriate stage, Czechoslovakia will be prepared to provide all required information concerning civilian installations, including plants, laboratories and scientific institutions producing substances which will be subject to control under the treaty.

The government announced that Czechoslovakia has worked out legal measures to limit the exports of some dangerous dual-capable chemical substances with the aim to prevent their misuse for the manufacture of chemical arms.

In its five points on the issue the government voiced Czechoslovakia's readiness to become an initial party to the treaty on a ban on chemical weapons and their destruction as soon as it is prepared at the disarmament conference in Geneva.

In an introduction to the five points, the statement said that responding to statements of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the GDR's Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the West German Social Democratic Party, the Czechoslovak Government is prepared to immediately start talks on the removal from and/or non-deployment of chemical weapons in central Europe, including the application of relevant control.

Such talks would give at the same time the necessary impulse also for speeding up progress on the road to a world-wide ban on chemical arms, the government said.

It described a treaty completely banning chemical weapons and providing for liquidation of their stocks as a priority in disarmament, as defined by the July 1988 session of the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee. The government regarded some results of the discussion of a chemical weapons ban at the 43rd U.N. General Assembly as encouraging and said that the forthcoming conference in Paris would be a significant act in this field.

Czechoslovakia is resolved to continue striving for implementation of the proposal to create a chemical weapon-free zone in Europe, which it had addressed—

together with the GDR Government—to the Government of the FRG, believing in unity and the mutually supporting character of regional and global approaches to arms cuts and disarmament, as well as that progress in disarmament is closely linked to favourable developed [as received] in all spheres of international relations.

This was also the idea behind Czechoslovakia's initiative to create a zone of confidence, cooperation and good-neighbour relations on the line between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member states, presented in February 1988, the government said.

Foreign Minister Johanes Addresses Chemical Weapons Conference

Text of Speech

AU1301115289 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
10 Jan 89 p 7

["Speech" by Jaromir Johanes, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, at the international conference on banning chemical weapons in Paris on 9 January]

[Text] Esteemed Mr Chairman; to begin with, I would like to thank President Francois Mitterrand and the Government of the French Republic for their initiative in convening this conference in Paris, and for its exemplary organization and hospitality.

We welcome the fact that the conference is taking place in close cooperation with the United Nations. We regard this as an expression of the growing role of the United Nations in solving the urgent tasks of the present, to which inseparably belongs also the strengthening of the international legal ban on the use of chemical weapons. This task is all the more important because the danger of chemical weapons has recently increased and is eliciting justifiable concern in the international community.

Thus, it is in our common interest that the conference issue a determined call for chemical disarmament by means of speedily agreeing on and adopting a treaty on a universal and total ban on all chemical weapons and on the destruction of their stockpiles.

We are meeting at a time that requires resolute actions. The world community faces the unpostponable task of further deepening and making use of the positive changes that have been achieved in international relations. A dialogue is developing between the USSR and the United States, between East and West; the activities for peace on the part of the nonaligned countries is increasing. Thanks to the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, mankind has taken the first step toward real nuclear disarmament, toward the implementation of the program for the total scrapping of mass destruction weapons by the year 2000. The next step will be to gradually find political solutions when dealing with regional conflicts.

All these are concrete signs of new political thinking, and of new political attitudes under the real [realne] conditions of our contemporary interconnected world. The important thing now is to comprehensively assist this development and make common effort toward resolving problems that are still burdening international relations. In this respect issues connected with nuclear, chemical, and conventional disarmament are of primary importance.

Without bold decisions to mobilize the forces of peace and common sense, a further reduction in tension and an improvement of the international situation cannot occur. Therefore, we fully support the comprehensive program for intensifying political dialogue, far-reaching initiatives, and important unilateral measures for reducing armed forces and armaments, submitted by Mikhail Gorbachev from the UN rostrum. The Czechoslovak proposal to establish a zone of trust, cooperation, and goodneighborly relations along the line of contact between the Warsaw Pact states and NATO, submitted by Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, organically falls within the category of these peace efforts.

As one of the first signatories of the 1925 Geneva protocol, Czechoslovakia always pursues ways to ensure its strict observance and strengthening its general obligatory nature. We appreciate the positive role this unique document has played in international relations for 64 years now.

We affirm our loyalty to the letter and the spirit of the Geneva protocol. We always consistently abided by it, and will continue to strictly observe it in the future.

We are also joining the categorical international condemnation of all its violations. We favor the development and adoption of concrete measures aimed at strengthening its authority, at making it universal, and at giving the United Nations and its secretary general power to play an even more active role in investigating instances of the use of chemical weapons. We believe that the mechanism that is being created for this purpose will expediently promote strict observance of the Geneva protocol.

In connection with the effort aimed at the document's strict observance, I would also like to express due appreciation for the importance of another international legal instrument—the 1972 treaty banning bacteriological and toxic weapons and their destruction—which complements and further broadens the protocol. It also obliges us to negotiate a speedy global ban on chemical means of conducting a war, these barbaric weapons of mass destruction, which should have been already long ago and forever excluded from the life of mankind.

Therefore, we note with satisfaction that in recent years marked progress has been made at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva in developing a treaty on a

universal and total ban of chemical weapons and their destruction. **The negotiations have reached a stage where, with resolute political will, it is possible in the immediate future to conclude work on its preparation, including resolving the verification aspect. The Geneva negotiating forum must concentrate its utmost attention precisely on this key task. In this respect, the year 1989 must be the decisive year.**

In this connection we welcome all constructive steps which contribute to overcoming disagreements and to the convergence of positions. There is no doubt that one of those steps is the unilateral halt of the production of chemical weapons by the Soviet Union, information about their total stockpiles, and in the end also showing them, including the manner of their destruction in Shikhanny. The opening for inspection of similar projects and facilities in the United States, Great Britain, the FRG and other countries were of positive significance from the viewpoint of the growth of openness and trust.

Weighty proposals and ideas concerning chemical disarmament resounded also in the United Nations last year. Here we welcomed the French declaration as a step in the right direction.

Permit me to stress from this rostrum that **the CSSR—as our government affirmed in its statement a few days ago—does not possess, does not manufacture, and does not stockpile chemical weapons on its territory. We also do not have facilities intended for their development and manufacture. Our scientific-technical base in this sphere is oriented exclusively toward protection against the effects of those weapons and toward peaceful purposes.**

Czechoslovakia welcomed the proposal to carry out experimental verification on the national and international levels to determine whether chemical weapons are not being manufactured by the civilian industry. We are convinced that practical experience acquired from this experiment will contribute to a speedy solution of the outstanding issues that have been raised pertaining to verification within the framework of the future treaty. **Our country has adopted a decision to take part in the experiment and is ready to carry out its first stage.**

In the interest of strengthening the regimen of the non-proliferation of chemical weapons we have also adopted a legal amendment which ensures the supervision of the exports of chemical substances with a dual application. The purpose of this measure is not to discriminate against anyone and does not hinder international cooperation in the peaceful development of the chemical industry.

We are prepared to play an intensive role in the fastest possible finalization of the draft treaty and become its initial participant. In this connection we support E. Shevardnadze's initiative to convene a session of the

Disarmament Conference in Geneva on the level of ministers of foreign affairs for a definitive approval of the draft treaty in the final stage of its preparation.

In our view, even regional measures can effectively help ban chemical weapons worldwide. The proposals for establishing a zone without chemical weapons in central Europe, which the CSSR submitted with the GDR in 1985-88, are oriented precisely toward that end. We support proposals for the establishment of similar zones also in other parts of the world.

We consider it necessary that our conference unanimously affirms the validity of the international legal commitments arising from the Geneva protocol, and appeals to states that are not as yet its participants, to join it without delay. At the same time, the conference must provide decisive impetus for activating the negotiations on the universal and total ban of chemical weapons and their scrapping to speedily finalize the pertinent treaty and put it in effect.

All this should be reflected in the final document. Czechoslovakia will continue to exert maximum effort to achieve these objectives.

Interviewed on Talks

*AU1301154089 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
11 Jan 89 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Elimination of Chemical Weapons Guarantees Their Nonuse; Jaromir Johanes Interviewed By RUDE PRAVO and CTK Prior to Flying Back From Paris"]

[Text] Paris—CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes granted an interview to RUDE PRAVO and CTK reporters prior to flying back from Paris on Tuesday [10 January]; as head of the Czechoslovak delegation, he had attended the conference of signatories of the Geneva protocol of 1925 banning the use of chemical weapons.

Johanes said that the Czechoslovak delegation had come to Paris to express the CSSR's conviction that only the total elimination of chemical weapons can most reliably guarantee the permanent removal of the threat of their being used. That is why the appeal for a maximum activation of current Geneva negotiations on the convention on a general and total ban on chemical weapons and on their destruction was regarded as one of the key tasks of the Paris conference from the very beginning of its preparations. This was also stressed in the speech delivered by the head of the Czechoslovak delegation.

The course of the conference to date confirms that an overwhelming majority of states have reached similar conclusions, J. Johanes said. High political representatives are stating that their countries are prepared to fully respect the Geneva protocol, demanding that it be immediately joined by states which have not yet done so. Support is also granted to the effort to prevent chemical

weapons from spreading further, and above all to the demand for an activation of negotiations on a worldwide ban on, and elimination of, chemical weapons. Several participants in the conference have come to Paris with specific proposals.

As for the CSSR's contribution to the conference, the Czechoslovak minister said that, side by side with the initiative to set up a zone free of chemical weapons in central Europe—which is already known, and which is being pushed through by the CSSR together with the GDR—the conference was also briefed on the CSSR Government's significant declaration of 6 January 1989 on issues connected with banning and eliminating chemical weapons. Both the data contained in the declaration, and our specific contribution to efforts to prevent chemical weapons from spreading by adopting measures aimed at limiting the exports of dual-purpose chemicals, as well as our readiness to join the chemical convention immediately after its conclusion, all encountered a positive reaction.

J. Johanes said that the statement of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze—among other things, he declared at the conference that the USSR would start eliminating chemical weapons already this year, that is, even prior to the final conclusion of the conference—and also other Soviet proposals are regarded as a significant step and example, which should be followed above all by the United States. Several countries have announced that they are joining the protocol.

In replying to the final question about the main significance of the Paris conference, Minister Johanes stated that the conference is not yet concluded and that intensive negotiations are still going on with regard to its final document. In this document it will be necessary to launch a unanimous appeal to further consolidate the Geneva protocol and activate negotiations on the banning and total elimination of chemical weapons, so that these negotiations can be concluded at the earliest opportunity. The CSSR Foreign Minister expressed his confidence that it will be possible to broadly apply new approaches to solving global international problems and that the Paris conference will become a new and striking stimulus for definitely and irreversibly eliminating chemical weapons from the life of mankind.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lays Out CSSR Stand On Paris CW Conference

*LD1201200189 Prague CTK in English
1823 GMT 12 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] Prague Jan 12 (CTK)—Spokesman of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Ivan Kulhanek presented today the Czechoslovak stand upon the Paris conference of the signatories of the 1925 Geneva protocol for the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons and other countries concerned at a press conference at the Czechoslovak Government Presidium's office.

He said in the statement that the course and results of the Paris conference had confirmed that new ways of solving global problems were beginning to be applied.

"Czechoslovakia welcomed that the conference had unanimously adopted a final declaration calling for further strengthening of the Geneva protocol and for the activation of negotiations on ban on and total liquidation of chemical weapons in such a way that they could be finished as soon as possible", the statement further said.

Czechoslovakia's concrete contribution to the efforts to prevent further proliferation of chemical weapons by adopting measures to limit exports of chemicals of dual purpose and the readiness to join the agreement immediately after it is negotiated have met with a positive response, Ivan Kulhanek stated and stressed that the Paris conference had become a new significant impulse on the road towards the definitive elimination of chemical weapons from the life of mankind. [passage omitted]

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Commentary Backs International Chemical Weapons Ban

*AU0501185889 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 4 Jan 89 p 2*

["-ng" article: "Urgent: Ban on Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] On 7 January, the International Conference for the Consolidation of the Regime of the Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Chemical Weapons begins in Paris. What is it all about?

The protocol, the observance of which is to be examined now, was signed on 17 June 1925. It was the result of several years of negotiations following the use of chemical agents as a means of mass destruction in World War I for the first time. This agreement, which is based on international law and which has been adopted by 109 states to date, bans the use in war of asphyxiating, or similar gases, as well as of bacteriological substances. However, it does not prohibit the development, production, and storing of chemical weapons.

Bearing in mind these loopholes, efforts over the past 2 decades have been concentrated on reaching a comprehensive and complete prohibition of chemical weapons, linked with the destruction of existing arsenals. Appreciable progress was made at the Geneva disarmament conference, in which 40 countries participated. Some 85 percent of the issues on an international convention to this effect have already been agreed upon. Both socialist and non-aligned states, as well as capitalist countries such as Japan, Great Britain, and the FRG, have contributed to it.

Questions of verification and destruction have not been settled yet. In order to help find solutions for these questions as quickly as possible, the USSR has agreed to carrying out control experiments, in civilian enterprises as well, on a national scale. The destruction of chemical weapons can begin as of spring 1989 in a recently constructed factory near Kuybyshev. The updated proposal for a chemical weapons-free zone in central Europe, which was submitted by the SED, CPCZ, and SPD in April 1988, is aimed at testing a global control mechanism on a regional basis.

Back to the Paris conference: Convened on a U.S. proposal, its declared intention is to "reverse by joint action the severe erosion" of the 1925 protocol on poisonous gas. Since chemical weapons can be produced or acquired rather cheaply, there is indeed a danger of their proliferation or use. Therefore, a new oath of allegiance to comply with the protocol, which has been in force for more than half a century, does make sense.

However, a great number of states expect that the conference will not only confirm the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons in war, but also give stimuli for achieving, even in 1989, the first priority: the total and universal ban of chemical weapons.

Foreign Minister Fischer Outlines Requirements for CW Ban Convention

LD0901141789 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1111 GMT 9 Jan 89

"Statement by the GDR foreign minister at the Paris conference on the ban of chemical weapons"—ADN headline]

[Text] Paris (ADN)—The text of the statement by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer is as follows:

Mr President,

Please permit me to thank the French Government for the invitation to this international meeting, for the generous hospitality.

The initiative taken up by President Mitterrand testifies to France's special commitment as depository of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and underlines the weight of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

This conference is taking place at a time when, despite all the complications of the international development, a change from confrontation to detente is taking shape. The Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Shorter- and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missiles has opened the door for disarmament. With this, it is being recognized for the first time that today more weapons do not mean more security. It has also been proved: Even difficult problems can be solved through negotiations providing that political will for it exists.

Speedy action is now needed to permit no delay, to make progress regarding nuclear, chemical, as well as conventional disarmament. The present security is not stable. Now, as before, there exist immense arsenals of weapons of the most diverse kind. And there are already attempts to ruin disarmament in one area through modernization in others.

Insisting on the concept of a deterrent leads to constantly new, constantly more modern armament. And this—as shown by current events in the Mediterranean region—is used against smaller states with no regard to the international consequences. This is inconsistent with the requirements of our time. The nuclear age demands—as Albert Einstein said—new thinking and new action. It demands that the ability of mutual destruction be replaced by the inability to perpetrate aggression. Therefore, disarmament, begun so very recently and timidly, must be made irreversible, security must be guaranteed jointly. The proposals submitted by the GDR and the other Warsaw Pact states are aimed at this. No type of weapon is excluded, and any means of verification is possible.

"The GDR welcomes and supports, fully and totally," Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State has said, "the new far-reaching proposals and initiatives presented by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in New York before the world body of the United Nations, to great applause. They aim at continuing and deepening the process of disarmament with new concrete steps. The Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact states, in the interest of safeguarding international security and consolidating peace, are thus again making important advance concessions. This testifies to their seriousness and determination to realize their peace program."

For mankind to survive, Mr President, immediate effective disarmament is needed. All countries are called upon to make their contribution toward this.

The solving of issues, such as halving the numbers of the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and United States and the ban of nuclear tests, is a great challenge.

In the international disarmament negotiations the ban on the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their destruction have an outstanding place. It seems to us significant that the USSR and United States have not only presented comprehensive proposals, but support multilateral negotiations through bilateral talks.

This conference here in Paris is part of the effort to rid the world of mass destruction weapons. It will—we hope—speak out clearly and unambiguously for the

complete elimination of chemical weapons by the end of this century. Thus, a demand, which arose in 1915 under the impression made by the deadly gas clouds of Ypres, would finally be met.

The GDR 30 years ago called for the reapplication of the 1925 Geneva Protocol without any reservations. It was one of the first states to sign and ratify the convention on the ban of biological weapons.

I wish to reaffirm here that the GDR does not own any chemical weapons, and has not deployed any such weapons of other states on its territory. It pursues neither the development of chemical weapons, nor does it have any plants for their production. In Geneva the GDR is actively campaigning to draft a convention for the ban of chemical weapons.

In this, global solutions and regional steps are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary. Both ways can and must be embarked upon in order to achieve more security in as many regions as possible, and in as many areas as possible.

The chemical weapon-free zone proposed by the GDR for central Europe—a region of the highest concentration of weapons—would be a truly confidence-building and security measure, which would promote a global solution. The GDR is prepared to immediately start negotiations with the CSSR and FRG on ridding or keeping free of chemical weapons the territories of the three states. The parts of the convention already worked out in Geneva could thus be tested.

Mr President,

For as long as chemical weapons are kept in arsenals, all efforts will be needed to achieve a ban on their use. We resolutely reject any violation of the Geneva Protocol. This important international document must be strengthened. The addition of more states would be useful.

The best guarantee against the use of chemical weapons is, however, their complete elimination. The convention aimed at this should at the same time contain an absolute ban on their use. The form of the treaty is already discernible. Agreements on the majority of the important stipulations exist. However, the modernization of chemical weapons, above all the development and production of binary weapons, is having an adverse effect.

Agreement on the still unresolved questions can be achieved only with the will to succeed and the willingness for compromise on all sides. A foreign ministers' meeting—as proposed by the GDR at the third UN special meeting in June 1988—could certainly give a strong impetus toward this. The appeal by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar for a concerted political campaign meets with our support.

The convention would be effective if first it provides for the complete elimination of all stockpiles of chemical weapons and their production basis, and excludes their reestablishment; second if it guarantees an effective examination of meeting the obligations entered into and contains effective measures against violations; and third, if it is of a universal nature.

The GDR is prepared to join such a convention at once. Its rapid conclusion would be made easier through an international moratorium on the production of chemical weapons.

Likewise, confidence-building measures would be useful for the negotiations, such as the exchange of relevant data, and trial inspections. The more states taking part, the greater the effect.

As far as the GDR is concerned, it has presented data on chemicals which could be affected by a future convention. An international expert seminar in one of our country's large chemical plants was held 2 years ago. A recent national trial inspection confirmed that it is possible to develop reliable checks which do not entail any economic drawbacks for industry, but which strengthen confidence.

May I state in this connection: The GDR is prepared to have an international trial inspection in one of its chemical plants. Until the universal effectiveness of a convention on the ban of chemical weapons is achieved, it is necessary to prevent their proliferation. Correspondingly, in 1987 the GDR introduced export regulations for chemicals which can be used both for peaceful purposes as well as for the production of chemical weapons.

Mr President,

This conference should end with a result

—which commits states to the speedy conclusion of the convention on the ban of chemical weapons, the intensification of the negotiations at the Geneva disarmament conference, and the broader participation in confidence-building measures,

—which appeals to states to join the convention early,

—which affirms the Geneva Protocol, calls for strict appliance to it and the expansion of its membership, and which, finally,

—supports regional measures in order to prevent the use of chemical weapons, and which promote a global solution.

The GDR will continue to spare no effort in making its contribution to ridding mankind of all mass destruction weapons.

The ban on chemical weapons would be a milestone along this path.

I thank you.

GDR Communique Welcomes Results of Paris CW Conference

LD1201135389 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1147 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Ambassador Wolfgang Meyer, spokesman for the GDR Foreign Ministry, released the following communique on the conclusion of the conference on banning chemical weapons which took place in Paris at the initiative of French President Francois Mitterrand: The GDR welcomes the results of the Paris conference. Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, stressed that they give "new impetus to the negotiations on a convention for the proscription of chemical weapons which extend via the Geneva protocol of 1925.

The unanimous realization rooted in the final announcement of the participating states on the speedy conclusion of the convention and the affirmation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 documents the international consensus to ban this scourge of humanity from military arsenals and thus exclude the use of chemical weapons for all time.

The GDR considers the announcement by the USSR to the effect that it will begin this year to unilaterally destroy its stocks of chemical weapons as a renewed important prior concession for the speedy continuation of negotiations at the Geneva disarmament conference. A constructive answer from the other side is required. As far as the GDR is concerned it is prepared to join a convention on the comprehensive banning of chemical weapons immediately after such a conclusion. It possesses no chemical weapons and does not have such weapons belonging to other states stationed on its territory. However, it considers the complete elimination of these weapons to be the most effective way to prevent their spread and their use. According to the GDR, regional steps such as the creation of chemical weapon-free zones has helped to achieve more security in as many regions of the world as possible and to secure a global banning.

Announcements from other states at the conference were optimistic on the nonpossession of chemical weapons and joining the Geneva protocol.

After the Paris conference it is important to have the declared political will followed by practical deeds on solving the still open questions of the convention at the Geneva disarmament conference. The GDR will make its contribution to this. As Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer said in Paris, the GDR is calling for the participation of as many states as possible in trust-building

measures, such as an international exchange of data and the carrying out of test inspections. Its proposals for a high effectiveness of the convention are on the negotiating table.

The GDR hopes that 1989 will become the year of the final proscription of chemical weapons. The whole process of disarmament would thus be given new dynamism.

In conclusion, the spokesman affirmed that President Mitterrand's initiative proves the special commitment of France as repository of the Geneva protocol of 1925 and underlines the significance of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

GDR Commitment to Convention To Ban CW Stressed

AU1601134989 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Jan 89 p 6

["Stan." commentary: "The Appeal of Paris: Ban Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] The appeal of Paris has some weight: After comprehensive discussions, representatives of 149 states and territories, including almost 90 foreign ministers, voiced their commitment to the necessity of a universal ban and the total destruction of chemical weapons. This is a hope-inspiring action of disarmament policy in 1989, which has just started. Now it is important not to permit any break in the process of arms reductions, as Erich Honecker stressed at the New Year's reception for the diplomatic corps. The GDR is convinced that the conference at the Seine River will give new stimuli to the negotiations on a convention on a ban of chemical weapons, which goes beyond the 1925 Geneva protocol.

Even though this international law document, which has meanwhile been signed by 109 states, prohibits the use of these terrible mass destruction means, but not their development, manufacture, and storage. Therefore, since the beginning of the 1970's the 40-state Geneva disarmament conference has been working on a convention that goes beyond the protocol and whose outlines have meanwhile been determined to a great extent. However, it has also become clear that the modernization of chemical weapons, in particular the production of binary weapons started by the United States, blocks the negotiations. In this respect, Washington has now to be taken at its word. The Soviet Union announced in Paris that it will unilaterally start to destroy its stockpiles before the convention comes into force.

At the Seventh SED Central Committee Session, it was again emphatically affirmed that for the GDR the worldwide prohibition of chemical weapons assumes an outstanding place in the international disarmament efforts. Therefore, our republic actively and constructively contributed to the preparations and course of the Paris

conference. At UNESCO headquarters, Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer presented a number of concrete proposals on how the process of chemical disarmament can be accelerated now.

He also stressed that a convention on banning chemical weapons would be effective if, first, it envisaged the complete elimination of all stockpiles of chemical weapons and their production bases and excluded their reemergence; second, it guaranteed effective verification of the fulfillment of accepted obligations and contained effective measures against violations; and if, third, it had a universal character.

Concerning the GDR's commitment to such a convention, the foreign minister referred to the initiative of the SED, CPCZ, and SPD, which was renewed last year, on the establishment of a chemical-weapon-free zone in the heart of Europe. The Governments of the GDR and the CSSR have officially submitted an offer for negotiations. In this connection, we proceed from the premise that global solutions and regional steps do not exclude each other. On the contrary. Both paths can and must be followed in order to, as the GDR Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed, achieve more security in as many regions as possible. A chemical-weapon-free zone in central Europe would certainly promote a global solution.

The conference in the French capital showed that the idea of confidence- and security-enhancing regional steps to promote a global solution meet with a wide echo. The political will of all parties involved is now necessary so that the signals emanating from Paris can be translated into specific results in the struggle against the dangers of the silent mass murder.

HUNGARY

Foreign Minister Varkonyi Addresses CW Conference

LD0801180089 Budapest MTI in English
1559 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, January 8 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi addressed the conference on chemical weapons, in Paris on Sunday. Here follows the full text.

On behalf of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, I wish, first of all, to express our sincere satisfaction with the initiative taken at the end of September before the United Nations General Assembly by President Reagan and President Mitterrand. Their proposal was well received by the community of member states, and the General Assembly was unanimous in welcoming the offer by the French Government to organize this conference. My delegation considers this willingness and the expeditious preparations worthy of special mention, and offers its thanks to the host country. I wish also to avail myself of this opportunity to greet

you, Mr. President, upon your election to this post of high responsibility. May I assure you of the full cooperation of the Hungarian delegation and its unconditional support for you in guiding this conference to success.

Hungary attaches great importance to this conference convened to facilitate the prohibition of chemical weapons. We consider that this conference is significant both politically and in the context of military security, because the process of scaling down military confrontation and transforming military capabilities for defensive purposes cannot yield lasting results unless it covers a dangerous type of weapons of mass destruction, namely chemical weapons.

On the other hand, removal of local and regional hotbeds of crisis is indispensable to strengthening international security and creating its new quality. The favourable developments of the past year in this field have opened a new perspective for the settlement of such conflicts. This is why we feel worried about the fact that, in so far as certain regional conflicts are concerned, there have been steps taken toward building qualitatively new military capabilities that will tend to act as a destabilizing factor, weakening, among others, the ban precisely on the use of chemical weapons, and impeding the conclusion of an agreement on their destruction.

This conference was convened because the nations and the governments of the world are deeply worried by the danger that stems from the existence of chemical weapons, a danger that in recent years has tragically manifested itself in the repeated use of these barbaric weapons. The Hungarian Government has condemned the use of chemical weapons, which is a violation of the generally accepted norms of international law, and has pressed for their complete and global elimination, as the only assured guarantee against their use.

The Hungarian People's Republic, as a party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, reaffirms its full respect for the commitment it has taken concerning the prohibition as contained in that treaty. We are convinced that each state must strictly observe the principles and objectives of the protocol. It is therefore desirable that all states of the world soon become parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol. At the same time, we also wish to call on all states that have not yet done so to accede to the convention on the prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons.

The convening of this conference was necessitated also by indications, spreading in an increasing number, of the growing risk of the emergence or the growth of chemical weapon stocks in various parts of the world, and consequently, of the growing danger of their use. The shocking effect of reports about the use of chemical weapons, and the growing risk that they may be used again, compel the community of states to multiply their efforts in order to eliminate the danger inherent in chemical weapon stock.

It is the firm position of the Hungarian Government that there is only one satisfactory safeguard against that danger—the elimination of its material base. More precisely: the elimination of the existing stocks and capacities by way of a convention on the complete and global prohibition of chemical weapons, covering every phase of their production or acquisition, and every state of the world.

It is a promising development of the past few years that in international relations, including the talks that affect the present and future of mankind, a new sense of responsibility is getting to prevail with increasing insistence. This is amply demonstrated by the highly important ideas expressed by Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to the United Nations General Assembly a month ago as well as by the rather favourable response to the Soviet efforts and proposals. There is today an international consensus of opinion that may be summarized in the following way: In the shadow of arsenals capable of annihilating human civilization, war and armaments can no longer serve as a means to settle international disputes and conflicts of interests. Their place must be taken over by a new cooperative security structure that is built through negotiations and agreements on arms limitation. This way of thinking with man and world civilization in its centre must soon become irreversible, and must determine the attitude of individuals, national governments and international forums. This way of thinking should manifest itself also in the decisions of this conference.

Less than a year ago, speaking at the conference on disarmament, I had the opportunity to declare officially that on Hungarian territory there are no stockpiles of chemical weapons or facilities to produce such weapons. We do not carry out any sort of research or development of chemical weapons, nor do we intend to acquire any chemical weapons capacity. Today I can reaffirm that Hungary continues to stand for a complete, global and strictly verifiable prohibition, for the total elimination of all stocks and production capacities.

Starting from this position, Hungarian disarmament diplomacy pays particular attention to negotiations on a comprehensive chemical weapon ban. By way of our initiatives and proposals we try to promote and accelerate the elaboration of the convention.

The creation and maintenance of a favourable atmosphere needed to have success in negotiations are facilitated by the strengthening of confidence among the parties involved, by greater openness and predictability concerning the subject discussed. Therefore, we emphasize the special importance of individual declarations made by numerous states whether or not they possess chemical weapons or relevant production capacities. This practice should soon be followed by other states, and not only by those actually taking part in the negotiations.

The peculiar characteristics of the chemical industry in general make it necessary for states to mutually convince and reassure each other about the peaceful designs of the civilian chemical industry. Without endangering the legitimate interests of the industry, each state should urge the chemical industry to take voluntary steps leading to greater openness and predictability. In so doing states could make a significant contribution to accelerating negotiations, and create better conditions for promptly acceding to the future convention. Thus they could already now help to bring about its universality.

The creation of confidence and the promotion of negotiations—in particular, the elaboration of verification measures, one of the major concerns of the convention—are well served by the latest initiative of the conference on disarmament to conduct trial inspections. In this project every state can play a role if its chemical industry is willing to commit itself to the objectives of a chemical weapons convention. May I mention here that the chemical industry in Hungary has taken up that cause, and the first national trial inspection was already held a month ago. We feel tempted to believe that negotiations on the chemical weapons convention should now concentrate on the evaluation and distribution of experiences gained in national trial inspections, on searching for the possibilities of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in further trial inspections, on giving those inspections an international aspect, and on experimenting with further types of verification methods. Hungary will continue contributing to the exploration and exploitation of those possibilities.

We believe that our individual actions form part of collective efforts, and serve to pave the way to the early achievement of a chemical weapons ban. We also have understanding and sympathy for any other individual measure towards that goal, including those designed to prevent the emergence or the increase of chemical weapons stocks. It is our firm belief, however, that all such steps and initiatives can only be effective and lasting if they are integrated in the convention on a comprehensive prohibition.

In the fields of international security, arms limitation and disarmament we recognize the important role of the United Nations and the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and also support the strengthening of that role. I am confident that the elaboration of the verification measures of the comprehensive prohibition would be advanced if, in the meantime, the United Nations secretary-general could be given added possibilities to exercise vigilance over the observance of the prohibition of use of chemical weapons, and to investigate, in a rapid and convincing manner, any suspicions or allegations in that respect. I can add here that we also wish to support the secretary-general in the discharge of that function, and are ready to provide qualified experts and laboratories.

Such are, briefly, the main purposes and positions of the Hungarian Government in respect of the items on our agenda. We consider it imperative that the conference achieve its main political goals: the reaffirmation of the prohibition contained in the 1925 Geneva Protocol, and the acceleration of negotiations in Geneva aimed at the earliest possible conclusion and entry into force of an international convention on the complete, global and effectively verifiable prohibition of chemical weapons. We are ready to give our full support to achieve these goals, and in this spirit we urge to adopt by consensus the final declaration of the conference.

POLAND

Text of Foreign Minister Olechowski's Speech to Conference

AU1201092989 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
9 Jan 89 p 7

[Speech by Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski at an international conference on the elimination of chemical weapons at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 7 January]

[Text] Mr Chairman.

The conclusion of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has proved conclusively that real disarmament is possible, provided that the relevant countries display the necessary political desire. The disarmament decisions recently presented at the UN General Assembly by Mikhail Gorbachev provide unprecedented possibilities for achieving a breakthrough in conventional disarmament as well, and also encourage the elimination of an entire class of mass-destruction weapons—chemical weapons—once and for all.

We are genuinely convinced that the present conference may and should encourage this objective. We state with satisfaction that this conviction was confirmed by all of international society in the resolution on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons that was unanimously adopted at the 43d General Assembly session.

Mr Chairman. The 1988 disarmament conference's work on a convention to eliminate chemical weapons was not completely satisfactory. Nevertheless, it is our objective opinion that the disarmament conference, especially its ad hoc chemical weapons committee, could lead to a solution of basic problems connected with the convention.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that in Resolution 43/74c, the General Assembly expressed the hope that the conference of signatories of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and other interested countries would lead to the successful conclusion of the talks on a chemical weapons convention, and that all countries would join in the process of attaining the objectives laid down by the conference.

For we believe that the call for a quickest possible end to the disarmament conference's work on a convention to ban chemical weapons should be the most important feature of the final document of the Paris conference.

Chemical weapons have met with firm condemnation for centuries. The outrage caused by the use of gas in World War I led to the signing of the Geneva Protocol in 1925, which banned the use of toxic or poisonous gases and bacteriological resources in warfare.

That is why we observe with deep concern cases in which chemical weapons are deployed. We condemn them utterly. We do not view them as a weakening of the terms of the Geneva Protocol, but as a violation thereof, which displays a weakening of the commitments stemming from this still important legal instrument. We state with satisfaction that international society's reaction to, fortunately sporadic, cases of violating this protocol shows that the terms of the protocol have taken deep root in the consciousness and practice of countries, as a result of which the protocol has become one of the most widespread norms of international law, deserving to be included among the cardinal principles of the law of nations. Therefore, the Polish delegation is of the opinion that the conference participants should ceremoniously confirm the continuing validity of the commitments stemming from the Geneva Protocol. We also believe that the conference should issue an appeal to countries that are not party to this protocol to sign it as soon as possible, thus giving it a truly universal nature.

Poland's concern to eliminate chemical weapons as quickly as possible stems from the basic principles of its foreign policy.

Poland made a major contribution to the formulation of the ban contained in the protocol, which not only applies to chemical weapons, but to bacteriological ones as well. Our country was one of the first to sign the Geneva Protocol in 1925. As we have said many times, Poland has never produced chemical weapons, nor has ever it possessed any. It never was, and is still not, our intention to possess them.

The UN General Assembly resolution on the working out of a report by the general secretary on the effects of using chemical and bacteriological weapons was adopted on Poland's initiative in 1968. This report has strengthened international society's conviction about an urgent need to eliminate these weapons.

On behalf of my government, I wish to say that Poland intends to be one of the first to sign the future convention.

ROMANIA

Foreign Minister Totu Links Chemical, Nuclear Arms Bans

AU0901185689 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1740 GMT 9 Jan 89

["Romanian Foreign Minister's Address at Paris Conference"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Paris AGERPRES 9/1/1989—Speaking in the Monday session of the conference, Foreign Minister Ioan Totu showed that Romania was attending the conference out of its constant desire to support the actions that will contribute to the halting of the arms race and to an effective passage to disarmament, for a ban on all arms of mass destruction, for drastic cuts in conventional weapons, troops and military spending which are a fundamental line of its foreign policy.

As the president of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, said not long ago "at a time when large quantities of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction that can destroy mankind several times over have accumulated in the world, there is no other way, no other policy than to altogether renounce force, war, to promote new thinking and a new democratic policy that should rule out force and war from the international life."

The theme of our conference is of outstanding significance. Indeed, we must take action to prevent a recourse ever to chemical weapons, to eliminate them completely.

Romania is a party to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for the prohibition of the use in war of chemical weapons, and undertook to observe the provisions of the document with respect to all the states that made similar commitments and that abide by them in their relations with Romania.

At the time of the adoption of the protocol—which many countries did not sign—its role was positive. However, great changes have since taken place internationally.

Therefore, in making the decision to reconfirm the validity of the 1925 protocol we must take into account the present international circumstances, which differ fundamentally from those more than half a century ago.

The speaker went on to say that the current threat of another world war linked to the nuclear build-up of some states, to the "nuclear deterrent" conceived as defence, the large accumulation of ever more sophisticated nuclear weaponry which, if used, could destroy mankind, the very conditions of life on earth. Also the chemical weapon has been improved since it was first made. Against the commitments made under the Geneva Protocol, the chemical weapon is today integrated into the actual arming and warfare tactics, jointly with the nuclear weapons, both classes having mass destruction as their effect.

These developments are set against the background of the policy of force and interference in the domestic affairs of states, of the persisting states of tension and conflict in various parts of the world, and of economic disparities—which are themselves further sources of tension. Even though in recent years positive steps were taken on the path of disarmament and political settlement of conflicts and talks intensified for the negotiated settlement of comprehensive problems, arms continued to be manufactured and proliferated. The international situation is still grave and complex.

Therefore, it is the view of Romania, clearly stated by its president, Nicolae Ceausescu, a few days ago that the ban on chemical weapons should be closely linked with the prohibition of the other arms of mass destruction, the nuclear weapons first of all. It is unconceivable that a chemical weapon ban can be effective unless a general agreement is made to renounce and eliminate, during a certain time, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Starting from the principle of self-defence and deterrence of any aggression, a ban on chemical arms and their use can only be achieved if action and practical measures are taken simultaneously to reduce and eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, and other weapons, to eliminate the policy of threat and use force in international life, to set interstate relations on a new basis, of equal rights, respect for independence and sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs. Actually, at a time when a number of states are arming themselves with the nuclear weapon, when the nuclear war threat exists, the non-nuclear countries may consider the chemical weapon as a deterrent as well, the Romanian foreign minister said.

We are for a passage to the liquidation of chemical weapons and for the elimination, in several stages, of all nuclear arms. The elimination of chemical weapons and of nuclear weapons should be simultaneous, to ensure a balance of forces and to prevent the use of some arms to blackmail states. At the same time, we are for conventional arms and military spending cuts to be made jointly with the elimination of chemical and nuclear weapons.

Simultaneous chemical, nuclear and conventional disarmament measures will ensure international stability and rule out all possibility of threat or use of force by some states with respect to others.

All these measures should be carried through under strict international control to ensure compliance with the obligations that had been assumed, to build up confidence and security worldwide.

Therefore, said the speaker, it is our opinion that an agreement on banning the use and production of chemical weapons and on the destruction of the existing

stockpiles should be closely linked to the liquidation of nuclear weapons, to an end to their manufacture and testing, to a ban on nuclear weapons.

Romania—which declared it did not possess the chemical weapon—will further take action to speed up the work of the Geneva conference in both fields and to effectively commit it to the negotiation of an international instrument banning and eliminating the nuclear weapon.

We also take action for the creation of a zone of peace, collaboration and good neighbourliness in the Balkans, free of chemical and nuclear weapons conceived of in close unity.

According to the same view, we support similar proposals of other countries concerning central Europe and other parts of the world. Moreover, the proliferation of chemical weapons and the ban on their production should be correlated with the development of the chemical industry for peaceful purposes, and the technological and scientific potential of each country. This calls for free and unrestricted participation in the exchange of products, in international cooperation in this sphere.

In light of the above, stressed the speaker, Romania is of the opinion that this conference should take a global view of facts. Let us analyse them as they are, and take action together to reach common solutions.

The political document we would have to adopt should not only reconfirm the Geneva Protocol of 1925, but also stress the requirement for a universal convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons jointly with the liquidation of nuclear weapons.

The simultaneous elimination of all weapons of mass destruction weapons, of all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or any other kind—is the only guarantee against their use.

Our action should be regarded as part of a wide effort of passage to effective general disarmament measures, to the elimination of the threat and use of force in interstate relations.

The recent serious event in the Mediterranean brings again into the focus the threats to world peace and security posed by the presence of navies and the shows of force in international waters. Romania takes this opportunity to re-state that foreign military ships should be withdrawn from international waters, that the oceans and seas should be free of any military presence, that an end should be put to the shows of force of the borders of states. Furthermore, Romania is firmly for the international air space to be used only for peaceful purposes, against all military exercises and actions in that space.

We think that the UN [United Nations], whose chief mission is to maintain international peace and security, to save mankind from the scourge of war, should assume a greater responsibility both for the promotion of this unitary concept and for the ensurance of compliance by the member states of the international agreements and other legal instruments in the field of disarmament.

Our conference has set to attain a generous aim. It is in the unanimous interest of mankind that its debate be held in a constructive spirit and help concerting the efforts of all states to achieve its aim.

Romania along with the other states is ready to make its active contribution to that aim.

Totu Offers Statement on Conference Concluding Document

*AU1101204889 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
2021 GMT 11 Jan 89*

[“Statement of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania in Relation to the Endorsement of the Final Document of the Paris Conference”—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 11/01/1988—During the debates on the endorsement of the final declaration, in the closing session of the conference, Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu took the floor, presenting the statement of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania in relation to the endorsement of the final document of the Paris conference, which reads:

Romania considers that the current international conference on banning the chemical arms, in Paris, is particularly important for the general process of disarmament. Romania has participated in this conference wishing to make its full contribution and bring its full support to halting the arms race, to eliminating all the mass-destruction arms, the nuclear arms in the first place, to eliminating and liquidating the chemical arms.

That is why, in relation to the draft of the final declaration, Romania underscores the need for firm actions to ban the production, storage and use of chemical weapons, to fully remove them from the states' military arsenals. In the context Romania declares it remains faithful to the signature placed on the Geneva Protocol, in 1925, on banning the use of the chemical arms at time of war, and it will work in keeping with the provisions of this protocol.

Taking into account the developments in the production of mass-destruction weapons, the emergence of new arms with a great destructive power and first of all, the emergence of the nuclear arms, Romania considers that any decision regarding bans on the chemical arms must be part and parcel of a set of measures aiming at banning the production, storage and use of any mass-destruction arms, of nuclear arms in the first place. The measures

regarding chemical, nuclear, conventional disarmament must stand in tight relation and be applied simultaneously, under strict international control.

Romania considers that the adoption of any measures to eliminate nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons should start from the ensurance of an equal security for all states, from the removal of any possibilities of blackmail by using one or another kind of weapon, by using force and the threat of force and that each country's sovereignty and independence should be completely ensured, on the basis of adequate pledges of all states.

Romania firmly declares for the conclusion of a general treaty or accord on banning the production, use and deposit of chemical weapons as well as of a universal general treaty on liquidating nuclear weapons and any weapons of mass destruction, ceasing their production and testing which should come into force at the same time with the convention for banning the chemical weapons production, use and deposit.

Romania restates in this framework, too, its determination to contribute also in future, together with other states, to attaining the noble purpose of disarmament, of the removal of the danger of destroying life on our planet and of the ensurance of peoples' peace and security.

SCINTEIA Demands Elimination of 'All Mass Destruction Weapons'

*AU1101114589 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
0950 GMT 11 Jan 89*

[“SCINTEIA: Romania Speaks Up and Militates for the Liquidation of Chemical Weapons and, at the Same Time, for the Phased-Out Elimination of All Nuclear Weapons”—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 11/1/1989—The halting of the arms race, the effective passage to disarmament, to the liquidation of all nuclear weapons, of all the weapons of mass destruction in the first place, are among the major goals of the present-day world for the attainment of which Romania, President Nicolae Ceausescu militate with unflinching consistency.

Romania participates in the Paris conference inspired by the constant wish to back and grant its support to the actions meant to contribute to the halting of the arms race, to disarmament, to the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, to a radical cut in conventional weapons, armed forces and military spending.

The chemical weapons, just as the atomic weapons, belong to the category of weapons of mass destruction, and their utilization in a possible war can have catastrophic consequences for the very conditions of life on earth due to their tremendous destructive potential. In the Geneva protocol the international community had

and has a legal and diplomatic instrument that deliberately bans the use, in case of war, of toxic agents or bacteriological methods of warfare.

It is an indisputable fact that the Geneva protocol played a positive role as a deterrent factor as far as the use of these weapons in the Second World War is concerned since not even Hitlerites dared to resort to them. Unfortunately, in the postwar period the chemical weapons have been continuously developed. As a matter of fact, in the shadow of the nuclear weapons, the chemical weapons have developed ceaselessly being now integrated into the actual arming and warfare tactics, jointly with the nuclear weapons.

All these are unavoidable realities that cast light on the importance and urgent character of the prohibition of all the weapons of mass destruction, which also include the chemical weapons.

This is the stand Romania has unabatedly taken. Many changes, deep-going transformations have occurred in the world since the adoption of the Geneva protocol in 1925. The current dominant of the international life that determines the huge danger that could be posed by another world war is the nuclear arms race. For some states, that possess suchlike weapons, defence relies, as is well known, on “nuclear deterrence.” And it is precisely the stockpiling of ever larger amounts of most sophisticated nuclear weapons that pose the most serious threat to mankind, as their use could lead to the annihilation of life on our planet.

All these developments take place in conditions of a still serious and grave international situation. Facts show that although some positive steps have been made of late, the policy of the use and threat of force, of interference in the domestic affairs of states continues to be manifest. There still are states of tension and conflict in various parts of the world, the contradictions between rich and poor countries sharpen, the economic gap widens, all these being themselves sources of new tensions.

In Romania's conception, restated most clearly on New Year's Eve by President Nicolae Ceausescu, the problem of banning chemical weapons should be approached in a global vision on realities. Romania is for a passage to the liquidation of chemical weapons and at the same time for the stagewise elimination of nuclear arms. This requires that the elimination of chemical and nuclear weapons should be done concomitantly so as to ensure a balance of forces and not to allow the utilization of some arms as a blackmail means on other states. Likewise, Romania is for the reduction of conventional arms and military spending in close connection with the elimination of chemical and nuclear arms. The simultaneous implementation of chemical, nuclear and conventional disarmament measures, under strict international control, would contribute to strengthening confidence and

stability the world over. One may say that it is unconceivable to reach an effective renunciation of chemical weapons without a general accord on the renunciation and liquidation, in a corresponding period, of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. In fact, in the conditions of nuclear arming by some states and the maintenance of the war danger, the countries which do not have nuclear arms, may consider that the chemical weapon can also be a deterrent arm. In this respect, it is significant that in the debates at the Paris conference, the representatives of numerous states pointed out that the problem of banning chemical weapons should be approached in close connection with the problem of banning other weapons of mass destruction, nuclear arms first and foremost.

In Romania's outlook, reiterated at the Paris conference, the banning and elimination of chemical weapons can be achieved only concomitantly with the actions and practical measures of reduction and liquidation of nuclear arms, of all weapons of mass destruction, other armaments, of elimination of the policy of force and threat of force from the international life, of putting interstate links on new bases, of equal rights, respect of independence and sovereignty, of non-interference in home affairs.

According to Romania's position, the conclusion of an accord on banning any utilization of chemical weapons and the production of like arms, as well as on the destruction of the existing stockpiles, should be closely related to the conclusion of a universal treaty on the eradication of nuclear arms, on halting their production and tests, the outlawing of nuclear arms.

In this spirit, Romania—that does not possess chemical weapons—will further work for the speeding up of the works of the Geneva conference in both domains, which should effectively start negotiating an international instrument of banning and liquidating nuclear arms too.

Romania works steadily for the creation of a zone of peace collaboration and good neighbourhood in the Balkans, free of chemical and nuclear arms—targets seen in close units. Likewise, Romania backs similar proposals advanced by other countries referring to the centre and north of Europe, to other parts of the world.

It is beyond doubt that in the approach to the chemical weapons issue, to the prevention of their dissemination, to their banning and destruction, account should be taken, in Romania's opinion, of the need to develop the chemical industry for peaceful purposes, which requires the free and unhampered participation of all states in the exchanges of products, in the international cooperation in this domain.

Starting from these facts, Romania believes, just like other countries, that the political document to be adopted in Paris should not merely reconfirm the 1925 protocol, but, on the strength of the deep-going changes

occurred in the world, underscore the imperative of elaborating a universal convention on banning and destroying chemical weapons in close unity with the elimination of nuclear arms, of all weapons of mass destruction.

YUGOSLAVIA

Paris CW Conference Preparations Discussed With Iraqi Envoys

*LD2012065288 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1818 GMT 19 Dec 88*

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Dec 19 (TANJUG)—Representatives of the Foreign Ministries of Yugoslavia and Iraq reviewed in Belgrade today the preparations for a conference of the signatories to the Geneva Protocol banning the use of poison gases, as well as other interested countries, scheduled to be held in Paris from January 7 until 11 next year.

The Paris conference is to expand the ban contained in the Geneva Protocol from 1925 to include all chemical weapons developed since that time.

The holding of the Paris conference is in line with Yugoslavia's position that disarmament is not in the exclusive domain of the big powers or bilateral agreements, but constitutes a common concern of humanity. Yugoslavia holds that the conference should adopt a clear political document which would serve as an impetus to negotiations on disarmament as part of the Geneva conference, the permanent body of the United Nations in charge of the problem.

As part of regular consultations between the two foreign ministries, Yugoslav Assistant Foreign Secretary Kazimir Vidas and undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Riyad al-Qaysi also discussed the preparations for the nonaligned summit, to be held in Belgrade next year.

Yugoslavia was entrusted with hosting the summit at a nonaligned ministerial conference in Nicosia.

Al-Qaysi today also discussed international questions with Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Secretary Milovje Maksic.

Foreign Secretary Loncar Addresses Paris CW Conference

*LD0801183289 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1505 GMT 8 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris, 8 Jan (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia points out the vital need for urgent and complete chemical disarmament. This was stated in Paris today by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary of foreign affairs, at the chemical weapons ban international conference.

Wanting to stress that the SFRY welcomes the initiative by French President Mitterrand to have this conference convened, Loncar remarked that the objective of this initiative is not only to reassert the ban on the use of chemical weapons, but also to contribute to the successful completion of the work on the convention to ban the development, manufacture, storage, and use of this weapon, and to its destruction as well, which pertains to the scope of work of the disarmament conference in Geneva. The Yugoslav foreign minister recalled in this context that during the third special UN General Assembly session on disarmament in June last year Yugoslavia suggested that an international conference be convened this year, under the UN aegis, during which the aforementioned convention could be signed. Accordingly, Yugoslavia expects that "the political involvement that has brought us here and the agreement we will attain will as soon as possible be translated into an international agreement that will be universal, comprehensive, efficient, nondiscriminatory and verifiable", Budimir Loncar added.

Loncar set out four immediate tasks for the Paris conference. The first is to encourage efforts to achieve agreement soon on the outstanding issues of a future convention, to speed up the active participation of the greatest possible number of countries in negotiations for the drawing up of that document, and to reaffirm the decisions of the General Assembly and the UN Security Council relating to the Geneva protocol and the condemnation of the use of chemical weapons in general and, fourth, to stress once again the importance of the Geneva protocol and to call on states who have still not become parties to it to do so.

Yugoslavia, Loncar continued, has for a long time been pointing to the danger posed to mankind by weapons of mass destruction, which include chemical weapons. He warned that further delay in negotiations will bring into question the concluding of a convention, bearing in mind the tempo of development on the threshold of the 21st century. Without decisive and firm action there is a threat of a certain kind of legalization of the use of chemical weapons coming about, noted Budimir Loncar. He said that in addition to this a convention would have a notably positive and encouraging effect on the other disarmament negotiations.

Taking this conviction as his point of departure the Federal secretary for foreign affairs said that he considered that the meeting in Paris could "significantly, perhaps decisively" influence the outcome of the negotiations in Geneva.

Loncar pointed out to this important and wide audience that the policy of the nonaligned movement, by its nature and character, is opposed to chemical weapons, and that this is also written in the stands of the non-aligned countries and was also set down at the latest ministerial conference in Nicosia, in September last year.

Since chemical weapons are only one means of mass destruction, Budimir Loncar said it is necessary to call for even greater efforts to be invested by the broadest international community for halting the arms race in all its forms and turning toward "true disarmament." Specifically, he demanded, as well as nuclear disarmament, since nuclear arms "represent the greatest danger for the survival of mankind" a far greater involvement for the realization of conventional disarmament, "on a global, regional, and subregional level". He also advocated the prevention of the spread of the arms race to the cosmos.

The Federal secretary for foreign affairs positively assessed the development of international relations and the strengthening of confidence and cooperation in the solution of the key problems of the contemporary world. In order that such tendencies might become a permanent direction, it is essential that they be constantly supported by specific disarmament measures. It is precisely in parallel with positive trends in international relations that the continuation of the arms race coexists, while "the majority of the developing world is threatened by economic collapse" said Budimir Loncar, among other things.

Spokesman Praises Weapons Conference Decisions

*LD1201201889 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1835 GMT 12 Jan 89*

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 12 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia assesses that the adoption by consensus of the Paris conference final declaration banning the uses of chemical arms represents still another strong political manifestation of the readiness of most members of the international community to foster the ban of these arms—stated today Yugoslav Government Press Spokesman Ivo Vajgl.

Vajgl told the regular press conference that this also affords evidence of the readiness to speed up the adoption of new international regulations on banning chemical arms and to encourage efforts towards general disarmament.

The spokesman stressed that the nonaligned countries' active and constructive stance had contributed significantly to the reaching of accord on the final declaration.

Yugoslavia expects that the results of Paris conference, which ended yesterday, will positively affect the forthcoming session of the disarmament conference in Geneva and will step up the working out of a convention on the banning of production, uses and storing of chemical weapons, Vajgl underscored.

He reiterated that at the third special session of the U.N. General Assembly, Yugoslavia suggested that this year an international conference should be called under the U.N. auspices towards the signing of a convention on the banning of the production, uses and storing of chemical arms.

INTERNATIONAL

'Senior Official': Jordan To Lead 'Common Arab Position' on CW

JN0701091889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
7 Jan 89 p 1

[By Raniyah 'Atallah]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan will spearhead efforts to coordinate a common Arab position at the January 7-11 international conference on chemical weapons, a position based on the principle that a ban on chemical weapons should be part of an overall disarmament strategy that includes nuclear arms, according to a senior Jordanian official.

"We stand by the priorities agreed upon at the first disarmament session of the U.N. General Assembly which concentrated on atomic weapons and put a ban on nuclear arms as the highest priority," said the official who preferred anonymity.

"Any consideration of chemical weapons will have to be dealt with in the context of total disarmament and prohibition of the use of atomic weapons as well," he added.

The conference, which opens in Paris Saturday, will seek to encourage negotiations in Geneva to reach a general prohibition on the production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons. The 1925 Geneva protocol, signed by more than 110 countries, prohibits only the use of such weapons. The one-page document contains no provision for sanctions and has long been viewed as inadequate. Jordan signed the protocol in 1977. [passage omitted]

Arab Representatives Confer at Conference

Kuwait Chairs Meeting

LD0801125889 Kuwait KUNA in English
1103 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 8 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jabir chaired here last night a meeting of senior Arab delegates to the international conference on banning chemical weapons.

Arab diplomatic sources reported that the meeting tackled coordination of Arab positions towards manufacture, storage and use of chemical weapons.

Foreign ministers of Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya cited their countries' stance on the issue.

They reached a unified stance to raise at the conference Israel's possession of chemical and nuclear weapons.

Shaykh Sabah is scheduled today to hold a series of Arab and international contacts to explain Kuwait's and the Arab stance on this important issue.

Issue Communiqué Stressing Nuclear Danger

LD0801180689 Kuwait KUNA in English
1717 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 8 (KUNA)—A communiqué issued by the Arab League's mission here said Sunday that the Arab foreign ministers had last night met (?in) the mission's premises to come up with a joint Arab stance during the currently-convening here international conference on the ban of chemical weapons.

It said that Arab states are fully aware of the importance of such a conference and they are determined to contribute to its success.

Yet, the communiqué added that the Arab states believe that the international community must realize the danger that other destructive weapons could pose—particularly the nuclear ones, which Israel is the only party in the Mideast to have acquired.

ALGERIA

Foreign Minister Bessaïeh Criticizes U.S. 'Threats' on Libya

LD0801195889 Algiers Domestic Service
in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] In the UNESCO building in Paris, where the international conference on banning chemical weapons is being held, several delegates addressed the conference. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaïeh addressed the conference today. Mr Bessaïeh talked about the circumstances under which this conference is being held. He said that the U.S. threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyyah stem from a misapprehension. Algeria considers these threats unjustifiable and (?wrong). Our foreign minister concentrated on the points of [word indistinct] disagreements, and listed them as follows:

First: No one should try to gain an advantage over anyone else, and no one should aspire to protect others in a way based on their assessment alone.

Second: All people have an equal right to security, in contrast to the current situation in Africa and the Middle East where rights are violated in the shadow of the existence of two antagonistic regimes which have nuclear military capabilities.

Third: It should be emphasized that any measure, whose aim is partial and scope is limited or [word indistinct], should never be considered.

IRAN

Foreign Minister Velayati Details CW Damage *LD0601183789 Tehran IRNA in English* 1645 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says repeated and extensive use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime during its eight year old war against Iran had caused the death and maiming of some 50,000 innocent people. This, he added, is the most evident reason requiring an all-out ban on production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical arms which seemed to be the aim of the Paris international conference on chemical disarmament this week.

In an interview with IRNA upon his arrival here this morning, the foreign minister said the Islamic Republic of Iran had welcomed a French invitation to participate in the five-day conference and that "we will have a positive and active presence in the conference."

French President Francois Mitterrand will open the conference on Saturday which will be attended by over 80 foreign ministers as well as disarmament experts from over 140 countries, at the UNESCO Headquarters here.

On the objective of the Paris conference, Velayati said it is held in response to the concern voiced over the repeated Iraqi use of the outlawed weapons by the world public opinion so that "catastrophes such as the one that occurred in Halabjah would not be repeated."

Over 5,000 Iraqi Kurdish civilians were killed and 7,000 others maimed on March 18 last year after Iraqi planes dropped chemical weapons on the town of Halabjah which was under Iranian control at that time. The ruthless attack was believed to be a punishment by Saddam Husayn against his own people only because they had welcomed Iranian troops' victorious entry into Halabjah a couple of days back.

Velayati said, public concern over the issue was an important factor in preventing the use of these inhuman weapons in the future. Therefore, he urged, the strengthening of the present international protocols on banning deployment of chemical arms was one of the main aims of the Paris confab.

Lauding public attention particularly that of France to the issue, Velayati regretted that certain countries, including some permanent members of the U.N. Security Council possessed chemical arms and were expanding their chemical arsenals everyday.

Turning to the Iraqi use of chemical weapons during its eight year old war against Iran, Velayati said Iranian troops, civilians as well as Iraqi Kurds had been subjected to 428 chemical attacks by Iraqi forces during this

period. A prominent example of these crimes, he added, was the Iraqi attack on defenseless civilians of Halabjah on March 18, 1988 which killed so many women, children and men.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the foreign minister rejected as "baseless and absurd" Iraqi charges that Iran had concentrated troops on the borders for an attack against Iraq. The allegations reportedly came today by Iraqi president Saddam Husayn.

Velayati said the Iraqi claim aimed at overshadowing the Paris chemical conference and came in light of the fact that with the convening of the conference the Baghdad regime would once again be subjected to strong criticism because of its resort to chemical weapons as a means of suppression.

"Baghdad must know that resorting to chemical arms is not a victory but only an inhuman crime," Velayati concluded.

Later in the day, the foreign minister spoke to representatives of the Iranian mass media here and expressed hope the Paris confab would mark a "turning point" in preventing production, proliferation and deployment of chemical weapons in the world.

"We hope to witness an extensive effort by world countries and international circles to prevent repetition of disasters such as the one that the world witnessed in Halabja," he added.

On Iran-Iraq peace talks and the reason behind its procrastination Velayati said no precise date has been set for the next round of the negotiations and the reason he said was obvious. "Iraq does not want to accept the Security Council Resolution 598 and the U.N. secretary general's 4-point plan."

Despite three rounds of peace talks since the U.N.-sponsored August 20 ceasefire, no substantial progress has been made to resolve the Iraq-Iran conflict because in each stage of the negotiations, the Baghdad regime has raised preconditions and unjustified pretexts.

Saddam Husayn wants the dredging of the Arvand River (Shatt al-Arab) as well as free navigation in the Persian Gulf before the peace talks could continue. But Iran says these Iraqi requests are untimely and outside the framework of the Security Council resolution which calls for an immediate withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders.

"The main problem is between Iraq and the United Nations and what should be done now is the completion of Article One of Resolution 598 on troop withdrawal," remarked Velayati, who is very much likely to meet and hold talks with U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar during the Paris conference.

The foreign minister stated that as long as Iraq continues to reject the Security Council resolution, resumption of peace talks would be meaningless and useless. However, he stressed, Iran is always ready to actively take part in the negotiations.

"In order to achieve real peace in the region Iraq must show its goodwill and immediately withdraw to international borders so that the grounds for the resumption of the peace talks would be prepared. [no closing quote-mark as received]

Asked to comment on this week's remarks by French Foreign Minister Alexander Dumas that the Paris conference will not take up past records on the use of chemical weapons and that it will not be an "international tribunal", Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran does not vest any hope in the countries which have directly or indirectly assisted Iraq in the course of its eight year old war.

"We believe they will not take serious actions in criticizing past performances on the use of chemical arms," he added.

He further stated that to achieve its rights, the Islamic Republic of Iran would never vest any hope in international bodies "because we believe these circles are under the influence of global powers." But he said Iran had a positive evaluation over its presence in the Paris conference.

Elsewhere the foreign minister referring to the recent U.S. aggression against Libya, said Washington was always after pretexts to inflict some blows on revolutionary countries. He said the Reagan administration was taking advantage of the international atmosphere on the eve of the Paris confab and by levelling charges against Libya was intending to bring that country under political, propaganda and military pressures.

The U.S. was attacking Libya over an alleged chemical plant while the entire world knew Washington itself was in possession of huge chemical arsenals, concluded Velayati.

Foreign Minister Velayati Addresses Paris CW Conference

*LD0701184789 Tehran IRNA in English
1646 GMT 7 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris, Jan 7, IRNA—The following are excerpts from a speech by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the international conference on chemical weapons Saturday:

The first Iraqi use of chemical weapons in 1981 was in fact a litmus test of international reaction which gained appalling momentum in the coming years due to the failure of any proper response to this menace.

A short glance at the U.N. reports can lead us to conclude that the use of chemical weapons developed qualitatively and quantitatively during this period.

It started from the Iranian military personnel, then extended to the civilians and finally expanded to the Iraqi people. In this trend both Iranian and Iraqi cities fell prey to chemical attacks.

Over 50,000 Iranians suffered severe and moderate injuries. About ten percent of the Iranian wounded died, 10-20 percent from mustard, 10 percent from cyanide and the rest from nerve agents. Over half of the dead were civilians.

Now, we have this question that why did not anybody think of holding such a conference in the past long years of extensive use of these weapons? Why did not such a conference meet when mustard turned to nerve agents and then to cyanide and sarin?

Why did not such a gathering meet after 5 consecutive years of my appeal and warning in the conference of disarmament? Should the treatment of hundreds of victims of chemical weapons in countries like Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, U.K. and other countries not lead to holding such a conference?

Why did this conference not meet after civilians of Iranian cities fell prey to use of chemical weapons and after in Halabjah over 5,000 people whose over 15 percent were children and women died and thousands of others were wounded?

Why did this gathering not hold after 252 instances of use of chemical weapons by Iraq which is documented in the United Nations (S/19816 of April 21, 1988) and after in more than one hundred letters submitted to the U.N. declaring the use of these weapons?

Why did the conference not meet after various reports of the investigation teams, statements of the Security Council and finally Resolution 612 and 620 of the council?

Had the protocol not been violated during the years of 1984 to 1989? Had the action and political consideration of big powers not been an encouragement for making the repeated and extensive use?

Now the whole world is exposed to an unprecedented menace and even some believe that the jinni is already out of the bottle.

The situation is so critical that it leaves no option for this conference but success. Our world cannot afford a failure. Failing to achieve tangible and concrete results in this gathering can convey extremely dangerous signals to the world.

All of us have to do our best to make this conference a success and the pre-requisite for such a goal is having a principled and responsible approach towards this disgraceful phenomenon of our time.

Mr. President, today a ceasefire is in force between Iran and Iraq and our good will to achieve a permanent, just and honorable peace has been well demonstrated.

The issue of chemical weapons therefore is no longer a bilateral matter for us. It is rather an international concern. Our nation as the most conspicuous victim of such weapons since 1925 wishes to render its sincere cooperation for eradication of these weapons.

The Islamic Republic of Iran during its eight years of defense with respect to its commitments and its adherence to Islamic principles which are human values never resorted to chemical weapons even as a means of retaliation despite its citizens having become victims.

If the international community wishes the governments to abide by the values and principles, it is now high time that those respecting these commitments be appreciated and those violating them be punished and condemned. Otherwise no state will commit itself to observe international rules and regulations.

Any attempt to whitewash the past will leave a detrimental precedence for the future. The appalling spectre of the past should always remind us to prevent their future use.

The reports of the teams despatched by the U.N. secretary general in 1984, 85, 86, 87, and 88 should provide a basis for future investigation of violation of 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The U.N. specialized agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNEP and UNESCO can be providing scientific and unbiased of the efforts of such weapons on future generations, pregnant women and the environment, and educating the nations on the detrimental effects of such weapons help prevent their use in the future. [Sentence as received]

It is unfortunate to say that the members of the conference on disarmament have not so far been able to arrive at an acceptable and concrete formula to this end.

It is important to note that the treatment of the Paris conference with the extensive use of chemical weapons in the past will play a decisive role in adhesion of states to the convention.

If this conference gives out this message that with providing political grounds, the use of chemical weapons is quite possible, then many countries will be tempted to that direction and will find no reason to accede to the convention.

The disarmament agreements or treaties are acceptable and achievable only when they not only guarantee the undiminished security of states but also increase it through adoption of concrete and practical mechanisms.

Among the important mechanisms in this direction, we can refer to the role of United Nations, the Security Council and the secretary general.

During the past several years when use of chemical weapons became somewhat routine and ordinary, certain procedures were gradually formulated for investigation of reports of these weapons.

These procedures were finally crystalized in U.N. general Assembly Resolution 42/37, in which the Islamic republic of Iran contributed to its formulation.

The valuable role of the secretary general and the reports of investigation teams dispatched by him which have been documented provided suitable basis for future works in this field.

Today we are shouldering weighty responsibility in preventing and prohibiting these inhuman weapons. This conference can be helpful as much as it can be perilous by sending negative signals which may unleash this dangerous trend.

In light of this responsibility and for creating a safer world for our children we must have fundamental and principled approach toward this extremely important issue, free from political considerations or politicizing.

To achieve this human goal which the complete elimination of these weapons of mass destruction, the Islamic Republic of Iran is always ready to cooperate with any sincere initiative in this direction.

Foreign Ministry Aide Replies to Iraqi CW Charges at Paris Conference

*LD0701202589 Tehran IRNA in English
1903 GMT 7 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris, Jan 7, IRNA—A member of the Iraqi delegation to the Paris international conference on chemical arms today accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of having used chemical weapons in the eight year old armed conflict between the two sides.

The Iraqi delegate made the charges after he was granted a chance by the president of the conference "to respond to Iranian charges against Iraq" on the use of chemical weapons.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his speech today held the the Baghdad regime responsible of killing and wounding 50,000 people by its chemical warfare during the war.

The Iraqi delegate alleged that Iraqi troops had been wounded by Iranian chemical weapons in the war that has apparently come to an end following the UN sponsored August 20 ceasefire between the two sides.

He also accused Iran of violating international norms and regulations.

In response to Iraqi charges, advisor to Iran's foreign minister, Kazempur-Ardabili [name as received] took the floor and said Baghdad's use of chemical arms had been frequent during the past eight years. He also said despite the accusations levelled by the Iraqi delegate, Iran had not used chemical weapons and there was no mention of Iranian deployment of the lethal gases in UN reports. But he said UN teams of experts have on several occasions confirmed and even condemned Iraq's use of the outlawed weapons against Iranians.

Ardabili added that the aim of the Paris conference was to protect the 1925 Geneva protocol. He urged Iraq to openly admit the use of chemical weapons and undertake not to repeat this crime anymore.

It is to be noted that when the Iranian foreign minister was addressing the conference today, his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz left the conference hall in protest.

'Aziz is to address the Paris conference on Sunday.

Velayati Assails Iraqi Minister's Remarks on Israeli Nuclear Arms

*LD0801175389 Tehran IRNA in English
1720 GMT 8 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris, Jan 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says his Iraqi counterpart's remarks on the threat of Israeli nuclear arms were only a desperate attempt by Baghdad to "overshadow its crimes in deploying chemical weapons."

Interviewed by IRNA after 'Aziz addressed the Paris conference on chemical arms today, Velayati also said the Iraqi foreign minister's statement on the threat of Israeli nuclear weapons against Arabs was outside the framework of the Paris conference.

'Aziz in his speech warned against the introduction of nuclear weapons into the region by Israel as well as of chemical weapons and missiles "that can reach many Arab cities including cities in Iraq."

Israel thus constituted "a serious threat to Arab national security, to the safety of the countries of the region and to the nuclear non-proliferation regime therein," he said.

But Velayati said the conference aim was only to discuss the issue of chemical arms.

Raising an issue outside the agenda "attests to the fact that the Baghdad Government is not brave and honest enough to admit its past use of chemical weapons, particularly in Halabjah."

In recent years, Iraq has resorted to extensive deployment of chemical arms against Iranians in the war and against its own Kurdish people even after Tehran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution and the subsequent ceasefire on 20 August.

In March last year more than 5,000 Iraqi civilians were poisoned to death and 7,000 were maimed when Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs on the town of Halabjah in Iraqi Kurdistan near Iran.

Velayati Meets with Other Foreign Ministers

*LD0801140189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Jan 89*

[Excerpts] Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced: If the Chemical weapons disarmament conference fails to reach a resolution on banning the production and deployment of chemical weapons, and the destruction of the existing chemical weapons, then the principle aims and priorities related to chemical weapons will not be realized. He added: It is not enough to exchange opinions and display goodwill so as to realize such priorities. [passage omitted]

Our country's minister of foreign affairs met the foreign ministers of Holland, Algeria, Italy, Japan, and the secretary general of UNESCO throughout yesterday and today. He also took part in interviews with various Western Television channels.

During his meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, Mr Velayati stressed: If the Iraqi regime refuses to comply with the international communities' demands and fails to take the essential initiative by withdrawing its forces to the internationally recognized boundaries, there will be no progress toward the implementation of UN Resolution 598.

Also, Sosuke Uno, the foreign minister of Japan, in his meeting with Mr Velayati, expressed contentment at the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand as announced in the chemical weapons conference. He stressed that despite the expiry of Japan's term of membership at the Security Council, Tokyo will continue to cooperate with the UN secretary general in respect to the implementation of UN Resolution No 598. [passage omitted]

Velayati Speaks to Press on CW Conference Progress

*LD0901113789 Tehran IRNA in English
1130 GMT 9 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris Jan 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today the Paris conference on chemical arms was "too conservative" to come out with decisions that "match the gravity of the situation."

However, he believed, the gathering should be able to send a strong alarm against the use of chemical weapons and an alarm to the one which resorted to their use, "although they got away with it."

Velayati warned that the use of chemical weapons will be repeated unless decisions are made for punitive measures against any country that uses chemical weapons or has used them while this fact is being substantiated.

Speaking at a press conference warmly welcomed by foreign journalists here, the foreign minister said notwithstanding the magnitude of the Iraq's use of chemical weapons which he described as a "grave tragedy", it was "unbearably heartbreaking to witness dismal" and in some occasions "absence of international response to such inhuman acts."

Velayati said the mere fact of convening the Paris conference, the level of attendance, and the attention paid to it "in the best way prove the urgency of the matter." But to Iran, he pointed out the conference "means a lot more."

"While others have to go back to old, tragic memories or among pages of the books and theories to discern the horrifying nature of chemical weapons, we have a deep and a heartfelt sense of hatred for these weapons of mass destruction and the cruelty and inhumanity that their use bear. This is due to the fact that we have been the most conspicuous victim of violation of Geneva Protocol of 1925."

The foreign minister described Baghdad's use of chemical weapons as "an axiomatic fact of life and a well established reality" and said it was "extensive, repeated, continuous," and the human suffering was severe.

He added that the negative impact of such a use on the international atmosphere was irreversible. Iraq, he said, was the only country in the world which has verified records of use of chemical weapons against military personnel and civilians, including of its own.

The Iranian foreign minister admitted that many journalists had shown much more courage to reflect the outrage of the international community, "a lot more" than many states or established institutions or organizations who have a direct and "clearly defined responsibility towards this."

He said the fact that Iraq was permitted to get away with murder for eight years of its war against Iran was the most vivid unfortunate example of "prevalence of interest over principles."

"No matter how much we try to bring some sense to this now, the pundit has been let out of the cage," he said, adding that Iraq proved that if any state was prepared to

disregard its nature, chemical weapons could be used as an effective, easy to make and use, weapons of mass destruction, "and worse yet, there will be others who are prepared to assist you."

He said Iraq received assistance from more than one country and more than one political block to produce complicated varieties of chemical weapons particular the nerve gas.

Elsewhere in the conference Velayati said the Paris meeting had provided him a chance to meet and exchange views with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on matters related to the Iraq-Iran peace process.

He regretted that the situation in this regard remained volatile and prospects for progress "still dim." Five months after the ceasefire, he said, Iraqi troops were still in Iranian territory. He also accused Iraq of invading part of Iranian territory even after the establishment of the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in August.

He stressed that withdrawal of troops to the internationally recognized borders was an "absolute must" as demanded by the Security Council resolution 598 and that it was not an "issue for negotiations." He promised peace will be at close range "once withdrawal has been finalized and verified."

On U.S. threats against Libya over its alleged chemical plant, Velayati said he thought Libya would be ready to invite international media to inspect the country to disprove the charges of production of chemical weapons. This, he believed would be the best answer to Washington's allegations over the issue.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati stated, condemned U.S. threats against Libya and described Washington's attitude in this regard as "illogical."

On Iran's reported access to chemical weapons and its capability to produce them, Velayati said despite that Tehran never retaliated Baghdad's use of the outlawed weapons. He reiterated that Iran was strongly against the production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical arms and that it would agree to an international verification that Iran is not taking any steps in that direction. He said Iran would also be ready to sign any international convention banning the use and production of chemical weapons even if Iraq refused to do so.

On the British hostages held in Lebanon, he said Iran would try its best to help release them as "we have done so regarding other hostages irrespective of their nationalities."

IRAQ

Kurds Protest Exclusion from CW Conference, Iraqi Presence

*AU0601204789 Paris AFP in English
2025 GMT 6 Jan 89*

[Text] Paris, Jan 6 (AFP)—The League of Kurdish Lawyers and Jurists expressed anger on Friday over the inclusion of Iraq in the chemical arms conference opening here and the exclusion of Kurds, targeted by Iraqi gas attacks last March.

The Paris-based group said it was "indignant at the presence of representatives of the aggressor state, responsible for genocides, and the absence of representatives of the victims".

Iraqi raids using chemical weapons killed an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 people at Halabja, a Kurdish town in Iraq near the Iranian border. The March 17 attacks came days after the town fell to Iranian forces backed by Kurdish guerrillas during the Gulf war.

Iraq, the Kurdish League said, had used Iraqi Kurdistan as a "testing ground for chemical weapons", subjecting them to suffering "never inflicted on any people in the world since World War I".

The League called on the international conference opening here Saturday to investigate the use of chemical arms against Kurds, to make Iraqi set up a fund to compensate Kurds for the attacks, to condemn the Iraqi massacre and ban the use of chemical arms, and to help Kurdish refugees living in Turkey in poor conditions.

ISRAEL

Foreign Minister Arens Speaks at Paris CW Conference

*TA0901102989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0930 GMT 9 Jan 89*

[Text] A short while ago, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens ended his address to the international conference on chemical warfare being held in Paris. Israel is highly sensitive to the use of gas, said the foreign minister. MA'ARIV correspondent Tamar Golan reports from Paris:

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has just concluded his address to the plenum of the international conference on chemical warfare convening in the UNESCO building in Paris.

All the Arab delegations were absent during Mr Arens' speech, with the exception of the Egyptian delegation, which showed up in increased numbers, and the Iranian foreign minister, who had just ended a news conference outside the plenum room. Most of the African states also

stayed away, either due to political reasons or because of the early hour. Those maintaining diplomatic ties with Israel were present, including the Ivory Coast foreign minister himself.

Minister Arens told the plenum of Israel's special sensitivity to the use of chemical weapons. He said that millions of our people were killed in gas chambers, although he did not mention Germany by name. Contrary to the other Western leaders, however, he did mention a number of countries in our region which use chemical weapons. He contended that Libya resorted to chemical warfare in its war against Chad, adding that even today Libya is constructing the largest plant in the world. He mentioned the tragedy of the Kurdish civilians who were wiped out by chemical weapons used by the Iraqis during the Iran-Iraq war. He also said that Syria has the potential for chemical warfare, but not more than that. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 9 January adds: "Minister Arens said that aside from the chemical warfare plant built by Libya, Iraq also manufactures mustard gas, as well as other gases, while Syria has built plants that manufacture mustard and nerve gases."]

At the conclusion of his address, Foreign Minister Arens was applauded by representatives of the Western countries present in the conference hall.

LIBYA

Foreign Minister Al-Talhi Supports CW Ban

*LD0801162989 Paris Domestic Service
in French 1245 GMT 8 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The burning subject of the Libyan chemical factory and the destruction of two Libyan Migs over the Mediterranean last Wednesday by U.S. fighters still hovers over this conference. Even if the Libyan factory at Al-Rabitah was not mentioned directly on the platform we know that it is the subject of many discussions, and this morning (Farida Ayari) was able to meet with the Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, who is at the Paris conference.

The Libyan minister reasserted that the Al-Rabitah factory was only a manufacturer of medicines. Going further he revealed to us what he would say in his speech due to take place tomorrow [9 January]. Libya, which signed the 1925 Geneva Convention which banned the use of gas, wants to go much further.

[Begin recording] [Al-Talhi] Above all I want to clarify our policy and our position. Libya ratified the Geneva agreement long ago, and has always respected the Geneva agreement on chemical weapons. Secondly, Libya has always expressed the hope that an agreement would very soon be reached for a complete ban on the development, production, use, and for the destruction of chemical weapons. I will also comment with regard to the allegations and accusations regarding my country and its

intentions of producing chemical weapons. That is to say that despite the fact that the production of chemical weapons is not banned by the Geneva agreement, Libya has decided of her own free will that it will not produce, and furthermore does not intend to produce, chemical weapons.

[Ayari] If at the end of this Paris conference on chemical weapons the participants draft a text banning the production of chemical weapons would you country be ready to sign it?

[Al-Talhi] Certainly, certainly. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Libyan Representative Speaks at CW Conference
LD0901232689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
2000 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 9 Jan (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has stated that the total and comprehensive elimination of weapons under effective international control is the ultimate end for which the Third World countries have been calling. All countries, particularly those with nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, should be firmly resolved to make an effort to proceed toward the attainment of such a goal within the framework of full respect for the aims and principles of the UN Charter and in accordance with the priorities set out in the final document of the United Nations General Assembly 10th emergency session on weapons, that is, nuclear weapons. The rest of the weapons of total destruction should also include chemical as well as conventional weapons.

He added in his address to the Paris conference of the countries that signed the 1925 Geneva Protocol: The international community has long realized the seriousness of the use of chemical weapons, which were extensively used during World War I, which hastened the signing of the first international document, the Geneva Treaty of 1925, that prohibits the use of such weapons. It was natural that from the start the United Nations should increasingly pay attention to such weapons. It is also logical that such a matter should have been a separate topic on the United Nations General Assembly agenda since 1969. The international Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has also dealt with it and has set up a special committee to reach an agreement on the total prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of chemical weapons' stocks.

He added that the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, which was the scene for two world wars, was and still is suffering from such wars' calamity and legacy. The latter is represented in minefields which the belligerent armies laid. My country, was the first victim on the African continent and in the world following World War I to suffer from chemical weapons. History confirms that the fascist forces threw—on 31 July 1930 on the peaceable oasis of Tazirbu in Libya's hinterland—

24 bombs, each of which contained 21 kg of mustard gas. This killed many children, women, and men. My country fully understands the dangers of using chemical and bacteriological weapons and the rest of such weapons of total destruction. It has, moreover, translated such an understanding into a practical policy through its effort, within the framework of the international [word indistinct] and the OAU, to adopt the necessary measures for progress toward total disarmament and work for the consolidation and preservation of international peace and security. Among such measures is its joining on 5 July 1968 the convention on the partial prohibition of nuclear arms test, on 7 March 1968 the convention on the utilization of outer space, on 29 December 1971 the Geneva protocol on the ban of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, on 26 May 1975 the convention on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and on 19 January 1982 the treaty on the prohibition of the production, development, and stockpiling of the bacteriological and (?chemical) weapons and their destruction. In addition, it endeavored to sign an agreement in 1981 with the IAEA on the inspection of nuclear installations for peaceful purposes.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau stated that while Libya reaffirms its adherence to all international conventions on mass destruction weapons, including the 1925 Geneva Protocol, it expresses its readiness to participate in any international effort that will lead to banning the creation, production, development, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and other mass destruction weapons, and the destruction of the stockpiles of these weapons.

He said: We address through this conference of yours all countries that have not yet joined the Geneva Protocol and the agreement banning the production, development, and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxic weapons and appeal to all countries to encourage the disarmament conference in Geneva and to urge its participants to speed up their work to reach an agreement on a total and comprehensive ban of chemical weapons and the destruction of its stockpiles.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau called all states participating in this conference to make every effort to support the declared aims and objectives for which the conference was convened, and to prevent any exploitation of the conference for other ends apart from its original ones.

The Great Jamahiriyah, he said, calls upon the international community to take into consideration the aims and principals of the UN Charter, in particular to prevent the use of any international measures that might be agreed upon to impose restrictions on developing countries in order to deny them the necessary technology for peaceful purposes and for the development of their

societies, and to ensure that any arrangements or measures that might be agreed upon are free of any discrimination, prejudice, or differentiation among the member states.

He explained that the Arab region is one of the hottest beds of tension in our contemporary world as a result of the historical conflict between the states of the region and the Zionist-racist entity which was implanted there at the beginning of this century, a conflict that threatens the security and peace in the region and in the world as a whole. What increases the perils of this conflict is the nonabidance of the Zionist-racist entity of all conventions, its refusal to abide by international resolutions, and its refusal to join the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and despite repeated appeals by the international community, its refusal to place its nuclear installations under inspection. Meanwhile, evidence is accumulating indicating its possession of a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons including chemical and germ weapons. Furthermore, he said, it is common knowledge that the Zionist entity has refused, up until now, to join the agreement banning the production, [word indistinct], and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxic weapons and their destruction, pointing out that the representative of the Zionist terrorist entity has spoken with a language that reflects its behaviour. He [the Israeli representative] did not hide his hostile intentions against Arab countries, he mentioned their names and he repeated the lies in a framework of coordination and distribution of roles between itself and its essential ally and accomplice in the aggression.

The international community is asked to feel a special responsibility towards this situation and is also asked to take deterrent measures. He stressed that self defense was a natural instinct even before it became a sacred duty and this has been accepted by all conventions and has been given consideration by all international conventions in various civilizations and cultures. Similarly, nonabidance by the conventions and treaties constitutes an unforgivable crime that can not be overlooked.

He pointed out that the situation in the world today is a result of an unjust situation in which the keen interest in keeping a promise often contradicts the nature of the interest in real life.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison said in his speech that the Arab area was afflicted with an entity that adopted aggression, occupation, expansion, and the extermination of human beings as a policy. It refused to submit to international resolutions and be committed to charters and [words indistinct] atomic weapons and other weapons of destruction. This entity finds backing and partnership with a great power that claims to shoulder a special responsibility of safeguarding international peace and security, but goes as far as signing strategic pacts with this entity and provides it with money and

technology and other means to enable it go further in expanding and developing its atomic weapons arsenal and the other weapons of total destruction including chemical and germ weapons, among others.

At the same time, this power does not hesitate to use every available means to deter the victim and the one who has been transgressed against; the victim whose existence would be threatened if he ever tried to confront these dangers even by possessing defensive weapons. These conditions contradict fair human nature and, no matter how long it takes, will lead to nothing except more human suffering.

He added: At a time when I repeat [word indistinct] at this conference the commitment of my country to all the charters which regulate the weapons of total destruction and its genuine desire to arrive at an agreement which shields the world and mankind against their evils and it reiterates its genuine political will to cooperate with any international effort in order to arrive at an agreement on banning and indicting the creation, production, development, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons, I draw attention to the fact that there are regional conditions which, if not tackled by adopting just solutions to the problems they are facing, will always represent a danger that could impede the effectiveness of any measures that may be adopted.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison noted that the international (?bases) that have been agreed upon must be applied to all sides without distinction between one side or another on account of race, language, or religion and in affirmation of equality of sovereignty among all states. This must be done in such a way that no one side in the international society gives himself the right, which he denies to others, to produce, stockpile, and use all weapons of total destruction, no one enables racist entities to attain this, and no one hampers all international efforts that are aimed at achieving a total disarmament of these weapons or at the same time launches a misleading campaign [word indistinct] proceeding from a discriminatory and racist standpoint and on the basis of groundless accusations simply because he is displeased with the attitudes and choices of others.

He said: We find someone who gives himself a right he does not possess when he places himself as a guardian over international society and levels accusations against others which are groundless and which emanate from political stands and considerations characterized by discrimination and the practice of terrorism against others and he resorts to the use of armed force instead of using the language of dialogue and solving differences by peaceful means. You have been following the premeditated military aggression against the great Jamahiriyah by the United States of America, which still threatens to launch a wider aggression for which it gathered its fleets opposite the Libyan Arab shores, making excuses that no one can accept nor could be approved by any law.

International society is called upon to condemn frankly and openly the American practices against Libya and should shoulder the responsibility of preventing a repetition of the criminal aggression.

He added: I must point out some elements that threaten the African continent and the Middle East area. These elements are in the form of the cooperation of two racist regimes in nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Hence we appeal to international society to stop this cooperation by implementing the UN General Assembly's resolutions.

In his speech he said: I must not forget to tell you of the great Jamahiriyah's concern over a serious situation which worries our African continent in particular and which has recently been its main concern. This is the noticeable and constant increase of dumping of dangerous nuclear and industrial waste in Africa by some non-African states and industrial organizations and companies. We condemn these unethical operations that are deemed a crime against Africa and its nations, and we affirm the resolution of the 48th session of the OAU Council of Ministers in particular.

He concluded his speech by saying: We would like to express our hope that the work of our conference will produce results worthy of the aspirations of our people for a better world in which security, peace, justice, and equality prevail, that the spirit of dialogue and understanding will prevail in international relations, and that there will be an end to the language threatening aggression and war.

MOROCCO

Foreign Minister Filali Addresses CW Conference, Urges Treaty

LD0801212589 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, delivered Morocco's speech today at the Paris conference. He called on all countries to show their commitment and will to completely abolish chemical weapons wherever they may be. In his address to 145 participants in the conference he added, without an official and collective commitment we will always be suspicious that the Paris conference was merely a consecration of a limited group of countries, which produce chemical weapons, similar to the group producing nuclear weapons.

Mr Filali expressed his conviction that it is urgent to reach some results in the negotiations about the treaty to ban chemical weapons, which is taking place within the Geneva disarmament conference.

He pointed out that Morocco, which is a member of that conference, is actively working toward reaching a compulsory treaty for banning chemical weapons and not only for limiting these weapons.

Mr Filali pointed out that this treaty should be complete and comprehensive and must ban the preparing, producing, manufacturing, transporting, stocking, and using these weapons. It must also specify the destruction of the stocks and buildings of chemical warfare, and also the drawing up of a suitable system for inspection which would be the key to this treaty in the future [passage omitted]

QATAR

Qatari Representative Addresses Paris Conference, Links CW, Nuclear Arms

JN0901221489 Manama WAKH in Arabic
2020 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 9 Jan (WAKH)—The state of Qatar affirmed the importance of making the Middle East region a region free of nuclear arms. It called on the nations which support Israel to pressure it to place its nuclear establishments under international supervision.

The state of Qatar clarified that this demand is compatible with all the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the general conference of the IAEA in its recent session. This session aimed to meet the general will which goes along with the agencies constitution calling for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the world and banning the spread of nuclear weapons.

This came in the speech delivered today by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, before the Paris conference of member countries in the 1952 Geneva protocol to ban the military use of toxic and poison gases and bacteriological war methods.

He called in his speech for the increase of international efforts to draft a comprehensive treaty which places a complete ban on chemical weapons and on [words indistinct] its use as part of the comprehensive operation of disarmament.

The Qatari minister of state urged the international community to formulate a clear idea on the dangers of chemical weapons. He stressed that every country should look into possibilities of confronting such dangers and avoid the dangerous developments before it becomes too late. He indicated that this requires respecting the law and the presence of a political will. We have to double our efforts to set a comprehensive treaty which could actually be implemented—a treaty which places a total ban on chemical weapons and their production, storage, and uses as part of the disarmament process.

He affirmed that the immediate and honest achievement in the reports dealing with the possibility of using chemical and bacteriological weapons could promote the authority of the 1952 Geneva protocol, especially with the increase in the number of countries which are developing their capacities in the field of the chemical weapons. This doubles the danger of increasingly using these weapons since they are a tool for war and terrorism.

He stressed that the chemical weapons disarmament should be contemporaneous with nuclear weapons disarmament in the world. This should take place to prevent mankind from being exposed to the scourges of weapons of total destruction, to remove the reasons which threaten peace, and to suppress aggression and other forms of violating international peace and security so that the world can live in peace, calm, and security.

SYRIA

Foreign Minister's Paris CW Statement Urges 'Strategic Parity'

JN0801065489 Damascus Domestic Service
in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara' has stressed the need to bring about strategic parity in the [Middle East] region, since parity has been disturbed by Israel's possession of nuclear and chemical weapons.

In a statement to the French newspaper LE MONDE published in Paris yesterday, al-Shara' said: Israel is developing various categories of nuclear weapons, not to mention weapons of mass destruction at a time when it continues to occupy the West Bank, Gaza, the Syrian-Arab Golan, and parts of southern Lebanon; and also at a time when it publicly refuses to withdraw from the occupied territories and recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The minister affirmed that whether or not it has chemical weapons, Syria believes that scrapping one category of weapons of mass destruction while leaving other categories unscrapped is tantamount to a unilateral disarmament.

al-Shara' announced that Syria is ready to commit itself to scrapping all weapons of mass destruction if Israel is ready to reciprocate. al-Shara' linked banning chemical weapons to banning nuclear weapons and affirmed that Syria will support any international initiative seeking to scrap weapons of mass destruction, be they chemical, biological, or nuclear.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Minister 'Abdallah Raises Issue of Israeli Nuclear Arms at CW Talks

JN1001182689 Manama WAKH in English
1605 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 10 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) today called for concerted efforts to eliminate all kinds of destructive arms especially nuclear and chemical weapons.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah also told a conference on chemical weapons that resolving conflicts through peaceful means would help combat proliferation of such weapons.

'Abdallah expressed concern over Israel's acquisition of nuclear arms which he said were more destructive than chemical weapons.

"The world should not forget the growing Arab concern over Israel's acquisition of nuclear arms which are more destructive than chemical weapons and which threaten Arab security," he said.

'Abdallah affirmed the UAE's commitment to the 1925 Geneva protocol banning chemical weapons and hoped the world would see a complete nuclear and chemical disarmament in the future.

Following is the text of 'Abdallah's address to the Paris conference.

"Mr. President: I begin my address with a congratulation to you for chairing the conference, hoping you will succeed in reaching a satisfactory conclusion of the conference. I also thank the French Government for hosting the meeting and providing facilities to ensure its success.

"It is a good chance that this conference is being held at a time when prospects of peace started to shadow the world after a period characterized by armed conflicts in many areas.

"In the Gulf, a ceasefire has been enforced between Iraq and Iran and we hope the two parties will reach a settlement through negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. In the Middle East, the central issue—Palestine—has made important strides which we hope will lead in a reasonable period and with the participation of the international community to a settlement that will enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate and inalienable rights.

"Elsewhere, promising prospects began to appear on the horizon that will carry peace instead of war and dialogue instead of confrontation. Through this, we hope the

international community will comply with the international legality which calls for peaceful coexistence among all peoples and cooperation for the betterment of mankind away from armed conflicts and their disasters and woes.

"This background which expresses the success of the international community in working for the ultimate goal of laying the pillars of a world community prevailed by peace, security and fruitful cooperation for the welfare of mankind provides the conference a right atmosphere that will pave the way to carry out its mission. This needs the wills and cooperation of all states so as to boost the spirit of respect and commitment to its decisions and recommendations.

"The conference is called upon to assert determination to ban the use of chemical weapons in military conflicts in violation of the international law. This should be done through affirming the importance of the 1925 Geneva protocol banning poison gas and similar weapons as well as strengthening the powers of the United Nations secretary general to take adequate steps to verify commitment not to use chemical weapons.

"We hope this conference which is being held in a distinguished world political mood will give the current Geneva disarmament talks a big moral and political boost to reach positive results that will eventually lead to a comprehensive agreement on chemical weapons. It is important that production, development and stockpiling of chemical weapons are banned and existing chemical arms stocks are destroyed under international supervision so that ban will not affect their use only as stipulated by the Geneva protocol which is important but with limited effect.

The Geneva protocol shows clearly that the international community had early been aware of the damage, disasters and destruction of mankind and ecology the chemical weapons cause. It was signed at a time when chemical weapons emerged as the first destructive weapon with a devastating effect on mankind that is quite different from conventional arms.

"But now, in the wake of the World War II, more destructive arms have emerged—nuclear weapons, whose destructive effects are unspeakable given the disasters and calamities they could cause mankind, if not annihilation of life on earth.

"Mr President: At a time when we speak about the importance of commitment by all states to combatting the spread of chemical weapons, which is a very significant matter, the world should not forget the growing Arab concern over Israel's acquisition of nuclear weapons which are more destructive than chemical arms and which constitute a source of threat to the security of Arab

states especially as Israel still insists on rejecting international supervision of its nuclear stocks and installations and ignoring Arab and Palestinian peace initiatives based on justice, international legality and respect of the United Nations charter.

"We should also remember that nuclear armament and the spread of weapons horizontally and vertically do not help much in eliminating other destructive arms including chemical weapons, but rather they make things more difficult. The basic principle—if we are sincere and do not want to deceive ourselves—is a serious and concerted effort to eliminate all kinds of destructive weapons whose owners believe they can deter aggression. In this context, accelerating settlements of conflicts through peaceful means is above all a guarantee for a real progress in combatting destructive weapons in the world when an atmosphere of peace. Stability and love prevails.

"Consequently, the big powers which have strong and direct influence concerning regional conflicts should assume their role with responsibility and without delay and pursue efforts to reach peace solutions to those conflicts based on respect of the international law.

"Mr President: The United Arab Emirates, since its independence, has respected the international legality and the international law and is still calling at world forums and bilateral talks for efforts to consolidate the pillars of world peace and security and to follow dialogue and peaceful means in settling international disputes.

"Based on this peace perspective of the world, the UAE affirms its commitment to the Geneva protocol and looks forward to a future where the world will see an overall ban of nuclear and chemical and other destructive weapons so as to eradicate a source which jeopardizes the existence of mankind and to harness all financial resources, skilled manpower and technology and exploit the atom in peaceful means to benefit mankind and confront ignorance, poverty and diseases—the arch-enemy of man.

"Mr President: The UAE hinges importance on reviving the Geneva protocol and international commitment to its principles and hopes this will be a step forward towards total disarmament. Once again, we stress the importance of the United Nations in taking effective measures to verify world commitment to the (Geneva) protocol.

"We do believe in dialogue and scientific supervision to bring to attention certain cases which are believed to be violating the international law on chemical weapons. By this, we can legalize the principle of peaceful dealing and avoid the recourse to violence or threat to resort to violence in international relations to achieve the ultimate goals which we all are working for and adhere to the UN charter which embodies the aspirations of mankind in renouncing aggression and safeguarding world peace and security."

Foreign Minister Shevardnadze Addresses Conference

*PM0901084589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Jan 89 p 4*

[Speech by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the International Conference on Chemical Weapons in Paris on 8 January: "Doing Away With Chemical Weapons Once and For All"]

[Text] Our conference constitutes a link, uniting times and generations. The generation that lived through World War I and first gas attacks, empowered its representatives to put an end to the use of chemical weapons. Thus, an outstanding document appeared—the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the authors of which were able to rise above the norms of their time and to overcome the conceptions concerning strength and victory, which held sway during that time.

This was the first time in the history of humanity that, horrified by the absolute inhumanity of a category of weapons, people introduced a general ban on their use.

We bow low to them and are grateful for this.

You and I, and our generation, have to do more—we have to entirely exclude chemicals as a means of war, and as a military source of deaths and threats to the health of people from the practice of global human society. For there is no better way of stopping the use of any kind of weapon than to fully eliminate it.

We must make the individual case general, the isolated instance a mass instance, the chance occurrence a regular occurrence, and the thing of the minute a constant thing. We must make them an eternal and stable norm of our existence on earth.

And we will do this.

We will do this because we already have even today experience of eliminating mass destruction weapons and of the comprehensive verification of that great procedure.

This is because even today, literally, just a few steps and gestures separate us from the conclusion of a historic convention on the prohibition and complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Because 1988 handed world affairs over to the new year of 1989 in such a state that it would be an unforgivable mistake not to use it for deepening the positive tendency in the times which have now come about.

In light of this, the new international relations based on universal consensus, which Mikhail Gorbachev spoke about in his speech at the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, are emerging as the reality of the day.

In light of this, our conference is at one and the same time the result of the advances being made and an instrument of developing the new dynamism in international affairs, their new climate, and new atmosphere.

These should be protected once and for all from the poisonous contamination of military toxic substances. The world's political ecology is unequivocally categorical on this subject and we are convinced our conference will stand witness to this position with all the authority of the states represented at the present forum. May the goodwill expressed here be seen as a mandate for concluding and signing a convention to ban chemical weapons completely in the near future.

We have come so close to the desired finishing line that we cannot turn away from our objective now. We are all capable of removing the last remaining obstacles on the road to it by exerting that goodwill.

The goodwill is total and each country has already made its contribution to it. The Soviet Union has also done so. Our position has in the last 2 years undergone a fundamental evolution: From production of chemical weapons to the total rejection of their production; from keeping quiet the figures for existing stocks to publishing the relevant data; from trying to shield enterprises and storehouses from outsiders' eyes to acknowledging the concept of comprehensive verification and inviting foreign observers to the processes of eliminating chemical weapons.

And if we are told that we were late in stopping their production, that we were late in taking other repressive measures against them, we will say: Yes, this is so, we really were late. However, having made the political decision, having made the choice, we are pursuing it without deviation, quickly making up for omissions in past years, going out onto an unprecedented level of openness.

Openness is an indicator of the sincerity of a country's intentions to keep pace with the world community.

Openness is a basic precondition for a realistic process of disarmament subject to verification.

Openness is the child of restructuring, of our internal restructuring, and of our efforts to adapt international relations to the radically changed conditions of world social development.

Openness is the norm and rule of contemporary international reality.

We have opened our factories and test sites in order to show, acting in accordance with this norm and rule, how medium- and shorter-range missiles are being destroyed.

We have, however, opened more than arsenals and test sites to the world—our soul, our pain, and it is with gratitude that we accept from the world its aid to heal the wounds of Armenia.

Openness is the guarantee and condition to the most rapid overcoming of the adversities and burdens that have been inherited from the past.

Can we now, in the knowledge of all this, not spread openness to the same degree over all military chemical production which has, like the pathological secretiveness, also been inherited from the past?

As we look through it and cast a great deal out, we expect the same of others too. Openness, like any other condition, must be mutual. Concluding a convention does not only depend on the Soviet Union—there is another power too that has just as sizeable reserves of chemical weapons, and it could make, on an equal basis with us, compromise decisions in the interests of establishing universal global verification [kontrol].

We call on all—whether it be states which produce chemical weapons or countries which have renewed production of them or intend to create them—to display responsibility before the world community, to call a halt, and thereby promote the conclusion of a convention on the elimination of chemical weapons.

As for the Soviet Union, we will complete in the near future the construction of an installation for the destruction of chemical weapons, and we will immediately proceed at that installation with the elimination of the chemical weapons stocks which we possess. And we will begin to do this even before the conclusion of the convention.

At the same time, the Soviet Union declares its intention to become an initial participant to the convention and calls on other states to do the same.

Having taken the path of chemical disarmament, our country has a vital interest in seeing the observance of a ban on chemical weapons and the elimination of stockpiles of them, as envisaged by the convention, implemented under effective international verification [kontrol].

The convention must include a provision for inspection on demand [inspektsiya po zaprosu] of any site or facility in the shortest time and without right of refusal. We accept the idea of an "open invitation to inspect," on the understanding that the inspectors will have access to all sites and facilities subject to verification without restriction, except residential buildings.

When our permanent facility for the destruction of chemical weapons comes into operation, we shall invite representatives of interested countries to visit it. We also plan to hold a seminar in order to exchange experience of the destruction of chemical weapons.

The Soviet Union has proposed that an international experiment be carried out, without waiting until the convention is signed, to test procedures for verifying [kontrol] the nonproduction of chemical weapons.

Our experts recently completed test inspections at an enterprise producing key precursors [prekursory], and they will present a report in the near future. After this, their foreign colleagues will be offered an opportunity to visit this enterprise and check the conclusions of a joint analysis of the test inspection results in various countries. We are undertaking all this in order to finally satisfy ourselves of the possibility, efficiency, and sufficiency of the measures of verification envisaged in the future convention.

From this high rostrum, I would like to state on behalf of the leadership of my country that the Soviet Union:

- while possessing chemical weapons, has never used them, even in its most tragic moments;
- is not producing chemical weapons;
- does not have chemical weapons beyond its national territory;
- proceeding from its principled attitude toward chemical weapons, has never transferred them to any other state;
- has declared the extent of its stocks of such weapons;
- will begin, in the current year of 1989, the elimination of the stocks at an installation specially constructed for this purpose.

The Soviet Union advocates the most stringent international verification, including on-site inspections without any right of refusal, and is ready to do everything possible and necessary for the conclusion of a convention in 1989.

The Soviet Union believes that particular importance should be given to the nonproliferation of chemical weapons. In line with this goal are steps to remove the chemical threat, which can be undertaken on the basis of coordinated measures by the states of individual regions. Therefore, we support the proposals of the GDR and Czechoslovakia, and of Bulgaria and Romania, on establishing chemical weapon-free zones in Central Europe and the Balkans respectively.

We call on countries not participating in the Geneva protocol to join it, and on participants not to allow it to be eroded, as this undermines the moral and political intolerance of chemical weapons, which to this day reliably holds in check the use of this most barbaric means of mass destruction.

In solemnly confirming its Geneva protocol commitments, the Soviet Union will strictly observe the ban on the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons laid down in this document. It is prepared to continue taking part in strengthening the conditions laid down by this protocol.

We support the idea of investigations by the UN Secretary general into cases of the use of chemical weapons, no matter where. In our view no one should have the right to refuse the holding of such investigations on his territory.

In time this function could be performed by an international verification agency, which, as we have proposed, would operate under UN auspices.

The procedures of a disarmament conference allow any state to make its contribution to drawing up a convention for the total banning and elimination of chemical weapons.

Each state can do this via the channels of democratic discussion, customary in the UN General Assembly.

We propose that a session of the disarmament conference be convened at foreign ministerial level in order to finalize the convention at the concluding stage of its preparation.

Ladies and gentlemen!

We have much cause to be grateful to France, which has graciously received and splendidly organized our conference in its beautiful capital city. The time and place in which it has been held—Paris, 1989, on the eve of the 200th anniversary of the great French Revolution—says much to us through the wide associations which it evokes. It speaks to us of the victory of enlightened reason over the forces of darkness; of the triumph of the ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity. But—to borrow the words of President Mitterrand—it also reminds us of the Bastilles that have yet to be taken.

Chemical weapons are one of them. Allow me to express confidence in 1989, following our common resolute storming, that fortress will at last be taken.

AUSTRIA

Ambassador to Conference Responds to Criticism on Plant Inspections

*AU1101195189 Vienna Domestic Service
in German 1700 GMT 11 Jan 89*

[Interview with Franz Ceska, Austrian ambassador to the Paris chemical weapons conference by Lorenz Gallmetzer, in Paris on 11 Jan—recorded]

[Text] [Gallmetzer] Mr Ambassador Ceska, it seems that Austria has been criticized and rebuked by several diplomats, at least on the sidelines of this conference. Is this true?

[Ceska] The terms "criticized and rebuked" are exaggerated. But it is true that as early as last April, in front of the Geneva Disarmament Commission, we—that is, our vice chancellor—declared our intention to carry out test inspections in Austrian enterprises, for the time being on a national basis, and later maybe also on an international basis, as several other countries have already done. In addition, we announced at that time that we are ready, according to the wish of the Geneva Disarmament Commission, to publish lists of chemical preliminary products that are suitable for the production of chemical weapons, as many other countries do. And we have done neither the one thing nor the other, although we said that we would implement the latter by the summer of 1988. Many diplomats here have talked to us about this. And, I do not conceal this, in one or two cases a connection was made with our interest in establishing the control agency in Vienna if a convention on a chemical-weapons ban were to be achieved.

[Gallmetzer] Why have these test inspections not been permitted so far? Who prevents and inhibits them?

[Ceska] I do not know this detail. I would not like to comment on this. These are internal Austrian considerations. However, the fact exists. So far, things have not come round to it. Compared to other Western and Eastern countries, we are lagging behind.

[Gallmetzer] Who is afraid of these test inspections?

[Ceska] I do not exactly understand why somebody is afraid of them because precisely one of the purposes of these test inspections is to gain expertise, experience on how inspections can be carried out some day, without involving industrial espionage. And I want to add one thing: We will not be spared them. If a convention is achieved some day—and this is absolutely possible in the next few years—international inspections will be imposed on us, whether we want them or not. I do not exactly understand why there are people in our country who do not want to determine from the beginning the way in which these inspections will be carried out.

[Gallmetzer] Mr Ambassador, a final question on the conference in general: The declaration has just been solemnly read. A compromise has been reached after all. Can this conference be called a success?

[Ceska] I believe so. The conference can be called a success; the validity of the 1925 Geneva protocol on the prohibition of chemical weapons in armed conflicts has been reaffirmed, which was necessary, as chemical weapons were used in the Gulf war. And, above all, it has been emphatically stated that the Geneva Disarmament Commission is now to accelerate and conclude its negotiations on a convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons and on the prohibition of the production, storage, and proliferation of such weapons all over the world.

[Gallmetzer] Does this mean that the Geneva negotiations will now gain new momentum?

[Ceska] I very much hope so.

CYPRUS

Foreign Minister Iakovou Speaks at Paris CW Conference

*NC1001210389 Nicosia Domestic Service
in Greek 1730 GMT 10 Jan 89*

[Text] In his address at the Paris conference on chemical weapons, Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou stressed that Cyprus, which is a victim of aggression, has supported all the efforts aimed at improving the international climate and promoting detente and disarmament. Iakovou added: On the question of chemical weapons, Cyprus adopted fully the position of the Nonaligned Movement, which condemns the use of chemical weapons by any state and under any circumstances. The Nonaligned Movement's position also expressed serious concern over the increased production, use, and development of chemical weapons. It urges the participants at the Vienna talks to conclude as soon as possible an agreement for a full and effective ban on the development, production, and use of all chemical weapons, and also for their elimination.

Iakovou also noted in his address that the proposals submitted by the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as the proposals by other countries which might or might not possess chemical weapons, create the feeling that now more than ever there is unanimity in condemning the use of chemical weapons, in reaffirming the 1925 Geneva protocol, and in recognizing the need to intensify negotiations on this very significant issue.

On the sidelines of the conference, Iakovou held meetings with various foreign ministers in view of the preliminary ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned states which will open in Cyprus on Friday. During these meetings Iakovou exchanged views with his counterparts and briefed them on the progress of the Cyprus issue.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Foreign Minister Genscher Addresses Conference
LD0901110789 Hamburg DPA in German
1002 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has called for a worldwide agreement on banning the production, possession, transfer, and use of chemical weapons, and has demanded the destruction of existing stocks under international supervision. At the chemical weapons conference in Paris on Monday, he also demanded "obligatory inspection on suspicion" in chemical plants. He urgently called for ending poison gas warfare. He said that "if all those concerned show good will", the conclusion of such "an agreement, provided with extensive verification regulations" would be possible before the year's end. He directed an urgent appeal to the Geneva disarmament conference to agree forthwith to "effective inspections on suspicion". In this, "protection against violations of treaties..." must "have precedence over requirements of secrecy for economic or competitive reasons. Evaluation of the pros and cons must be carried out in favor of humanitarian considerations and of life itself." No state should be allowed to evade such inspections.

"Mankind must be liberated from the scourge of chemical weapons. These means of destroying human beings should have no place in the arsenals of the community of states," Genscher said, welcoming the announcement of chemical disarmament by the Soviet Union as a significant contribution.

Genscher again pointed out that the FRG refrains from the production of chemical weapons and is so far the only state to have been subjected to an international on-site inspection. He called for the outlawing of all chemical warfare. "Anyone who repudiates the outlawing of all chemical warfare is himself likely to be outlawed by the world community," he stressed. The United Nations has to secure more rights to investigate when there is suspicion of the use of poison gas.

Press Review on CW Conference Focuses on Shevardnadze Announcement
AU0901212989 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network
in German 0605 GMT 9 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER comments: In spite of all the lengthy declamations, the large conference on chemical weapons in Paris is gaining political momentum. This is above all due to the Soviet foreign minister's announcement that Moscow will unilaterally start to destroy its chemical weapons arsenals this year. It has had almost the same effect in Paris as Gorbachev's statement 1 month ago in New York that the Soviet Union will reduce its troops and conventional weapons in Europe without getting anything in return. Although

Moscow's announcement regarding chemical weapons is not such a complete surprise, Shevardnadze's more precise statements are new and welcome. Thus, the Soviets have outdone the Americans once more in front of the world public. This is shown by the reaction of Secretary of State Shultz who immediately affirmed the United States' goodwill. However, the least danger is presently emanating from the two superpowers' chemical arsenals. The concerns that smaller states, above all in the Third World, procure poison gases for their defense or for attacks on neighbors are far more serious, the KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER points out.

The next is the SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG's view: For a country that did not even publicly admit the possession of poison gas until 1987, the Soviet foreign minister's appeal at the Paris chemical weapons conference was an impressive announcement. Moscow, according to Shevardnadze, will start destroying its chemical arsenal this year, and it has already stopped production. However, also here—just like Gorbachev's vision of a nuclear-free world by the year 2000—there has to be a differentiation between willingness and reality. Moscow itself states that it has 50,000 tonnes in its possession as, while Western experts estimate the amount to be 10 times as much. Considering that some of these infernal poisons have to be destroyed drop by drop, the Soviet Union will not even be rid of them by the year 2000. Therefore, the really threatening problems lie elsewhere—not in the program, but in the practice. It would considerably contribute to confidence-building if the Warsaw Pact renounced routine rehearsals of a poison gas war during its exercises, the SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG states.

The SUEDE-KURIER, which is published in Konstanz, points out: At first glance, it looks as if Soviet diplomacy has once again taken the initiative. While, before the Paris chemical weapons conference, people were still racking their brains about Al-Qadhdhafi's ominous plant, and George Shultz and Hans-Dietrich Genscher were trying to mend the U.S.-German shambles, Eduard Shevardnadze came up with the news of the day. As early as this year, the USSR will start to unilaterally destroy chemical weapons. This is remarkable because the Soviet Union carried out a large-scale chemical-weapons buildup for almost 2 decades, while the United States has completely restrained itself in this field until recently. Thus, for the time being, the propagandist beat of the drum is only a signal of a change in the Kremlin's thinking, the SUEDE-KURIER writes.

The NEUE OSNABRUECKER-ZEITUNG points out: The Soviet Union's announcement that it will start the destruction of its chemical weapons before the end of the year has to be welcomed as a gesture of goodwill. As the plan is in no way legally binding and there are no reliable data on the volume of the arsenal and its composition, several question marks still remain. For example, it will be hardly possible to remove all doubts of whether it will not be primarily old poison gas stocks that are to be

eliminated. Moreover, in spite of all contradictory data, it is at least certain that the USSR is far superior to the Americans in this weapons category too, and that the beginning of the destruction campaign would initially first establish a balance. However, it would be insufficient to evaluate the Soviet announcement in Paris only according to these thought patterns. Eduard Shevardnadze connected it with a new, urgent pleading for a worldwide chemical weapons ban and—this is the decisive factor—considered controls in case of suspicions as absolutely necessary. Only some years ago, nobody in the West dared to hope for this. This is recalled by the NEUE OSNABRUECKER ZEITUNG.

Now the RHEIN-PFALZ, which is published in Ludwigshafen: The chemical weapons, the importance of which is played down by calling them the little man's nuclear bomb, have an established place in the arsenals of many states. In this way, the small ones dodge the nuclear arms monopoly of the big ones and draw level with the superpowers, at least in the sector of chemical weapons. Of course, they deny that they possess such weapons. However, it has been proven that Iraq used them in the war against Iran and also against the Kurdish minority. Therefore, the first rejections, which were expressed in an involved manner, came from the Middle East: If the great powers emptied their nuclear bunkers, one could start to talk about chemical weapons, it was stated. The fact that Bonn welcomes the Soviet Union's announcement is completely understandable since the most recent events. For the Federal Government was exposed by the United States as a promoter of the chemical weapons trade. Foreign Minister Genscher had to use all his eloquence in order to hear at least from still acting U.S. Foreign Minister Shultz that the United States completely confides in Bonn's willingness to strictly investigate any involvement of FRG firms in such a trade, RHEIN-PFALZ stresses.

In this context, DIE WELT comments: The conciliatory statements of Foreign Ministers Genscher and Shultz in front of television cameras in Paris were somewhat constrained. They were not able to obscure the fact that nerves are extremely tense in Bonn. Referring to the chemical plant in Libya and the involvement of German enterprises, U.S. newspapers talked of Auschwitz in the desert. The severity of these attacks was diametrically opposed to the proof that have been presented so far by the Americans. Now German experts are to come to Washington for the sole purpose of studying the proofs—more than strange proceedings between friends.... Auschwitz in the desert? Terrible things can be done with chemical weapons. We have known this since World War I and the recent war between Iraq and Iran. But the reference to Auschwitz is wrong, not only because it could blur the uniqueness of the crimes committed with Cyclon B. In addition, it pushes the case off onto the Germans. This neither serves the alliance nor the purpose of preventing new crimes by new perpetrators, the daily DIE WELT concludes.

The FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG says in summary: Thus, for the time being, it has to be evaluated as a small success of the Paris conference that a dispute between Washington and Bonn on a German firm's alleged delivery of means of production for poison gas to Libya has been settled. Under the pressure of Soviet eagerness, the two allies have realized that straining their relations, which anyway are not always completely free of latent tensions, by absolutely unproven reproaches does not pay off for them. So far, not even a suspicion which would suffice for starting investigations concerning that firm has been corroborated in the FRG.... Chancellor Kohl may have welcomed the opportunity to contradict the latent reproach of sycophancy toward the United States, which is sometimes voiced by the opposition, without all too persistent consequences, the FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG comments.

Press Skeptical on Results of Paris CW Conference

*AU1201113089 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network
in German 0606 GMT 12 Jan 89*

[From the press review]

[Text] The FRG press today comments on the conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Conference in Paris. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE states: Anyone who considers the Paris Chemical Weapons Conference a success because of its final document is certainly a thoughtless person—to use a polite term. The hope for the conclusion of a convention that does not only provide for the elimination of the existing stockpiles of such weapons but also for the banning of their production and stockpiling, which has been stipulated by the conference, is a bill drawn on the future. There is more substance in the confirmation of the old Geneva protocol, which at least banned the use of chemical weapons 64 years ago. Old laws are usually good laws. The reinstatement of this law, which was violated to the great advantage of the offenders, may indeed be seen as a small positive result.

BADISCHE ZEITUNG in Freiburg points out: The Paris Chemical Weapons Conference was convened because of the use of chemical warfare agents by Iraq: The 1925 Geneva convention was in danger and should be safeguarded. But efforts in this respect have not been very successful. The criminals of the Baghdad leadership have been addressed only very indirectly in the final document. The participants in the conference modestly express their concern about recent violations of the Geneva protocol and softly call on all states to exert restraint and be aware of their responsibility until a worldwide and complete ban of chemical weapons is achieved. This will certainly not influence leaders in the Middle East and northern Africa who are striving for power.

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU writes: The Paris debates can at least take credit for having raised real problems if it is true that international security and world peace are indivisible. If this is the case, not the whole blame can be put on chemical weapons. It is true that nerve gases belong to the most cruel weapons, but this does not justify the political denouncement of chemical weapons, which are relatively easy to produce, whereas the possession of chemical weapons is nearly viewed as the crowning of technical efficiency.

FRANCE

President Mitterrand Comments on Paris CW Conference Objective

LD0801110489 Paris Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Paris conference on banning chemical weapons resumes work today with speeches in particular by the USSR and Iraq. The U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers are to meet on the sidelines to the conference: Secretary of State George Shultz wants to give his Soviet counterpart Mr Shevardnadze more information on the Libyan factory at Al Rabtah to try and convince him that the installation is indeed intended for the production of chemical weapons in large quantities. During his opening speech yesterday, President Mitterrand recalled the meaning of the conference which is the most important on this subject since World War II.

[Begin Mitterrand recording] It seems to me that what is expected from those assembled here is this: A solemn proclamation that the states reject the use of chemical weapons and consider it imperative to make them disappear from the face of the earth, a reminder of the juridical, political, and moral ban, and the expression of a strong determination to arrive at a ban not only their use but also on their manufacture, storage, and transfer. These are the two objectives of our conference, the two are connected: We shall not arrive at a complete ban if we do not reaffirm today the prohibition on their use; that prohibition will in turn be ensured all the better if manufacture, storage, and transfer become impossible. [end recording]

At the UNESCO building, where 109 speeches are expected between now and the closing of the conference on Wednesday [11 January], the polemics between Iran and Iraq, which began yesterday, are expected to take off again with the speech by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The two countries crossed swords yesterday when they accused one another of infringing international conventions on chemical weapons.

Foreign Minister Dumas Writes on CW Conference Tasks

PM0601161089 Paris LE MONDE in French
6 Jan 89 pp 1, 5

[Article by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas: "Banning Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] Last year saw considerable progress on the path of disarmament. The Americans and Soviets have begun to reduce their nuclear arsenals. The Europeans have laid the foundations for the negotiations on the reduction of conventional weapons which should begin in Vienna soon.

The first international meeting of 1989 is on disarmament and is being held in France as the custodian of the 1925 protocol and because it also intends to play its full part in the task of disarmament.

The international community has reacted very favorably to the initiative of convening this international conference taken by President Reagan and by the president of the Republic and announced from the rostrum at the United Nations at the end of September 1988.

We must make the best possible use of this unprecedented mobilization on this issue. Engaged today in a race against time to eradicate chemical weapons, the delegates of the nations meeting in Paris will not be able to settle everything in 5 days. But what will they be able to do?

All the participants acknowledge with us two needs: first, to reaffirm the authority of the 1925 protocol—the only international agreement banning the use of chemical weapons—and, second, to conclude as soon as possible a convention barring the manufacture and stockpiling of these weapons, and, at the same time, any inclination to use them.

The danger is real, insidious, and manifold, but we have the means to meet it. The danger is primarily that of seeing the international obligation of nonuse eroded as a result of repeated violations. That obligation was for over 60 years a kind of taboo.

The missions of enquiry promoted by the UN secretary general, thanks to a procedure proposed by France in 1982, in particular enabled the Security Council last August to condemn very firmly and unanimously the most recent instances of use of chemical weapons.

Since the violations have thus been condemned very clearly by the appropriate international body, there is no need to return to them at the Paris conference in order to put this or that nation in the dock. Instead, our aim is to mobilize the international community so that nations will never again have to suffer the ravages of gas. Let us

hope that the countries which have not yet acceded to the 1925 protocol will do so on this occasion. Some have already announced their intention to this effect.

Over and above actions, too many comments have recently given the impression that strategists could rediscover the alleged merits of these weapons.

Chemical weapons are not weapons of deterrence. As is known, they do not prevent war but highlight its horrors. If their presence for tactical purposes were to be justified by tense regional situations, everybody would lose by it—the local powers which would incur the dangers of a deadly escalation and the whole of mankind because of the race to war which such use would prompt. The whole disarmament process would be affected or jeopardized by this. People would turn their backs on the peace on which all efforts are now focused.

The way to eliminate chemical weapons completely is now the subject of the Geneva negotiations within the disarmament conference. The negotiations are working on the formulation of a draft document which in a sense foreshadows a future treaty.

The most recent progress in disarmament—in particular, the Washington treaty on the Soviet and U.S. intermediate nuclear forces—has highlighted the crucial importance of verification. Chemical disarmament is undoubtedly more difficult to verify because of the diversity of use of certain toxic substances, the scale of worldwide industrial capabilities, and the extreme difficulty in detecting diversions for military purposes.

As can be seen, it is a particularly complex exercise, but it has already taken a very practical turn, since by the middle of this year the main countries possessing large chemical industries will have organized an initial "experimental inspection" at the national level in order to test on the ground the reliability and effectiveness of the practical measures formulated in Geneva. It is already anticipated that after a comparison of this first series of experiments, international inspections will be organized. This shows how deeply governmental authorities and representatives of industries are involved in the very specific search for appropriate and effective verification procedures.

Detailed technical work is necessary in order to settle verification and security issues, not to mention many other matters. In order to see it through as soon as possible—especially at a time of increasing urgency—it is essential that all nations of the world collectively impart a decisive political impetus to the future convention which will introduce a complete and permanent ban.

Pending the convention itself and in order to achieve it even more certainly, unswerving condemnation of chemical weapons, strict observance of the 1925 protocol, and the strengthening of the UN role to that end are more

essential than ever. An unprecedented milestone in disarmament—the permanent banning of an entire category of weapons—could thus be passed. The Paris meeting is thus indissociable from the overall disarmament process.

By organizing the Paris conference, France wished to call on the international community to force the pace in order to achieve the effective and permanent elimination of a terrible weapon.

Defense Minister Chevenement Refuses To Link CW, Nuclear Weapons

*LD1001210589 Paris Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 10 Jan 89*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement refuses to make a link between chemical weapons and nuclear weapons—this is what he told our correspondent Fabrice Le Quintrec this morning during a meeting with the press:

[Begin Chevenement recording] Deterrence is intended to prevent war. Nuclear weapons are weapons prohibiting war, which render war obsolete as a political institution for settling conflicts. In this sense they are radically new in the history of humanity.

Chemical weapons unfortunately have been used and can be again, as we saw recently. Thus they are not at all in the same category. I regret these disputes. It is not the same thing. You cannot make an assimilation in a misleading way.

[Le Quintrec] What do you expect, what do you hope from the Paris conference as defense minister?

[Chevenement] I hope, and I think it is a good thing, if the prohibition on the use of chemical weapons is renewed. I also hope that a fresh boost is given to the Geneva negotiations on the prohibition of manufacture and stockpiling. But there will be simultaneous technical prohibitions and moral prohibitions, taboos. These weapons must no longer be used. [end recording]

Soviet Motives in Backing U.S. Call for CW Ban Assessed

*PM1101095689 Paris LE MONDE in French
10 Jan 89 p 1*

[Editorial: "A Soviet Gesture"]

[Text] Mr Shevardnadze created a media event at the UNESCO building on Sunday 8 January. He announced that his country would start destroying some of its chemical weapons this year, irrespective of whether a new convention banning such weapons has been signed. The report surprised the experts less than public opinion: The Soviet foreign minister is a master of the art of surprise announcements.

Indeed, back in 1987 Mr Gorbachev hinted that his country was prepared to abandon its chemical panoply which was regarded by many strategists as highly embarrassing and very difficult to use. He then revealed that a special factory was being constructed in Chapayevsk on the Volga to destroy the lethal stocks, some of which present serious conservation problems. Indeed, it is more difficult and costly to get rid of chemical weapons than it is to manufacture them.

The most interesting part of Mr Shevardnadze's speech is that he used the platform to carry out a fairly rare exercise in self-criticism. Condemning the "pathological mania for secrecy" which the USSR cultivated for a long time, he admitted that it was very "late" in changing its policy, in admitting the existence of considerable stocks of chemical weapons, and in accepting the principle of surprise inspections, known as "challenge" inspections.

Such statements are of course not the result of saintliness: It is highly likely that if the United States had not decided to resume production of chemical weapons in an extremely sophisticated form in 1987, Moscow would not now feel such a strong desire to end this dangerous competition. Last Friday it was Mr Gorbachev's turn to stress once again the need for the USSR to reduce its military spending: Addressing the flower of Soviet intelligentsia, the general secretary admitted that there was probably no other way of reducing the budget deficit and improving supply.

But, in the final analysis, the motives do not really matter. The essential thing is still that the two superpowers, supported by most of the industrialized countries, are in favor of abolishing chemical weapons and introducing a monitoring system aimed at preventing proliferation. Should we oppose this because it is in the interests of the North rather than the South, and because the latter is being deprived by the rich of a terrifying weapon which is within its means? And should we make a ban on chemical weapons dependent on the elimination of nuclear weapons, happily confusing offensive weapons with deterrent weapons?

The answer lies in the questions themselves. The fact remains that the USSR and the United States will have great difficulty in persuading many Third World countries to support their viewpoint, particularly the vast majority of Arab countries. They are fascinated by the recent Iraqi demonstration of chemical "know-how" and are tempted to see it as the only conceivable response to Israeli nuclear weapons.

Shevardnadze Announcement on Destruction of CW Stocks Praised

*PM1301150089 Paris LE MONDE in French
13 Jan 89 p 1*

[Editorial: "Restructuring and Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] Everything is changing. The new Soviet policy is overturning the rules of international relations. In addition to its inherent aim, the Paris conference on chemical

weapons has provided an illustration of this new situation and of the benefit which the international community can derive from it.

Mr Shevardnadze created the greatest surprise in Paris by stating on Sunday 8 January that his country was shortly going to start destroying the stocks of chemical weapons which it has. But, aside from this striking statement, the USSR and its allies, aside from Romania, kept a very low profile during the difficult negotiations on the drafting of the final document. The reason for this is that the emphasis has shifted on this issue and it is no longer the subject of East-West confrontation.

The destabilizing, and at times also fruitful, effect which restructuring has for large areas of the rest of the world was seen in Paris, as it has been seen on other subjects at the United Nations. The USSR, which has the biggest stocks, only very recently admitted having chemical weapons. But as soon as it allowed the mask to slip and decided to follow glasnost in this sphere too, the states which hitherto calmly acquired such weapons were exposed. This did not produce North-South problems, although several developing countries rightly used the platform to forcefully discuss some special threats, like the dumping of toxic industrial waste in their countries.

The effect was to identify the obstacles to chemical disarmament as purely regional or, more specifically, Near Eastern: The objections to the measures proposed came less from the nonaligned countries in general than from the Arabs. They were able to express their views, and they were taken into account in the final document; but, by agreeing to join a general condemnation of chemical weapons which aims to be universal, they obviously lost much of their negative impact, and this is to be welcomed. The Arab countries did not want to be isolated from the rest of the world in Paris. It is to be hoped, as Israel does, that they will still take account of this strong international pressure when the time comes to sign the Geneva convention.

The United States and the Soviet Union nonetheless still bear a heavy responsibility for the continuation of the process. Mr Shevardnadze's announcement that his government promises to destroy its stocks of toxic substances at industrial level is important not only because it is exemplary but for technical reasons: Respecting the 10 year deadline which the Geneva negotiators have already decided for the eradication of world stocks of chemical weapons is in effect determined by whether the main countries which have these weapons have the industrial capacity to destroy them. Indeed, this is a long and technologically complex operation. It is unfortunate that Mr Shultz did not feel it useful to reaffirm the technological lead which the United States has in this sphere and the fact that it began the destruction process a long time ago and that, as has so often happened in the disarmament sphere, he allowed his Soviet counterpart to steal the limelight.

GREECE

Foreign Minister Papoulias on Hope for Interim Solutions

NC1001195089 Athens ATHENS NEWS in English
10 Jan 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Paris, (Athens News Agency)—Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, addressing the International Conference on the elimination of chemical weapons, Sunday underlined the need for an agreement banning the production, stockpiling and refinement of all chemical weapons.

He said that until such an agreement was drawn up, "we must search for solutions that will check the utilisation of chemical weapons and, within this framework, we must all support the Secretary General of the United Nations in increasing our denunciations of the use of chemical weapons," he said. [passage omitted]

Papoulias said he held talks within the framework of the conference with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with whom he discussed the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The minister said the same issue arose in his discussions with his Turkish counterpart Yilmaz, because a difficulty had arisen on the proposal of the Turkish side to exempt the southern borders of Turkey from the discussions of the conference.

He said he and the Turkish foreign minister had agreed that this issue would be discussed in Vienna.

Papoulias said this problem was the only one he had discussed with Shultz because of general concern that the situation that had been created by the Turkish proposal might postpone the closing of the conference. [passage omitted]

ITALY

Foreign Minister Andreotti Gives 'Cautious' Speech at CW Conference

PM1001110289 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
8-9 Jan 89 p 11

[Vladimiro Odinzov dispatch on Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti 7 January speech to Paris CW Conference: "Italy: 'Earliest Agreement Needed'"]

[Excerpt] Paris—Andreotti was careful never to use the terms "terrorism" or "terrorists." He spoke, at most, of "clandestine production of chemical weapons," without leveling precise charges at anyone.

Speaking yesterday afternoon at the Paris conference on chemical weapons the Italian foreign minister delivered a cautious speech on the pressing need to reach as soon as possible an agreement to ban such systems, somewhat contradicting the theory that the verification procedures problem is insoluble.

"The technical complexities," Andreotti said, "cannot and must not constitute any excuse for postponing the solution of a problem that is essentially political and that involves trust between the states."

He revealed in this connection that the research conducted recently in Italy by a group of international scientists confirms the effectiveness of a "system of data collection, verifications, and inspections." The conclusions reached by these experts will be submitted for examination by the current conference in Geneva.

The chief condition for observance of an agreement to ban chemical weapons, however, is increasingly wide adherence to the objectives of an accord that "will serve to isolate any possible violators from the civilized community and to discourage any nonobservance by either governments or private industries."

Andreotti did not say what specific sanctions should be imposed on anyone continuing, in violation of the accords, to secretly produce chemical weapons and agents, but he did mention the "preparation of verifications that could exert a deterrent effect at both the political and the economic level."

To boost the banning of chemical weapons the minister appealed to the "countries possessing the largest arsenals to make rapid reductions through their total elimination as soon as technically possible," by dismantling not only the systems but also the "units trained for their use and ceasing exercises of this kind."

On the whole it was a very generic speech in line with a stance that the Italian Government has always maintained (Italy, Andreotti pointed out, has already stated that it possesses no chemical weapons, that it does not want to possess them, and that it does not host any on its territory.) However, it was no different from those delivered by all the other ministers attending the conference who spoke on the first day of the proceedings.

The aim of the meeting, the Italian minister acknowledged, cannot extend beyond the adoption of a final document that "unequivocally proclaims a commitment to the total abandonment of the use of chemical weapons and above all to accepting a system of objective and effective controls."

At a news conference later he explained that "the result of the conference will be seen not from the final document but from its impact on the Geneva negotiations, where hitherto obvious or hidden difficulties have hindered the attainment of the desired results."

Andreotti announced in this connection that next month he will again visit Geneva with German Foreign Minister Genscher to try to impart a boost to the negotiations.

Although he did not publicly mention terrorism and terrorists, the issue was broached Andreotti's conversation with American Secretary of State Shultz, during which the Italian minister reaffirmed that "as far as the activity of establishment X (Andreotti decided not to name it) is concerned, everything still remains to be clarified."

Andreotti defended his stance by saying that "since all my knowledge of chemistry dates back to my high school examinations, I have to rely on what the experts say. They have not yet produced any conclusive evidence."

Next our minister challenged America's claim that "a single inspection is not enough to ascertain the factory's activities." "Al-Qadhdhafi," Andreotti told Shultz, "never mentioned just one inspection," emphasizing the word "one."

Furthermore the tough and intransigent U.S. position is not helping the moderate and peaceful tendency now displayed by the Maghreb countries, the minister added, pointing out to the secretary of state that the other states of the region must be brought round to this stance, in line with what Egypt and Syria are already doing.

With regard to Libya in particular, Andreotti admitted the need for the Tripoli regime to "dispel all suspicions by taking steps forward, limiting political hospitality to terrorism, which certainly does not facilitate a policy of coexistence in the Mediterranean. (Answering a question from an Arab reporter, the minister summed up his stance with the remark: "I am neither Al-Qadhdhafi's nor Shultz' defense attorney.") [passage omitted]

TURKEY

Foreign Minister Yilmaz Addresses Paris CW Conference

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in Turkish 1700 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Inci Tanrioer report from Paris]

[Text] Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz addressed the international conference against chemical weapons in Paris today. He expressed his pleasure at holding the conference at a time when the 1925 Geneva protocol on the banning of chemical weapons is being (?violated). He recalled that since then, chemical weapons have become more effective and destructive through technological advances.

Pointing out that time has been lost for the efficient banning and detection of chemical weapons, he said: Nevertheless, efforts to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons should not lead to the monopolization of these weapons. Countries should not be allowed to have such weapons based on the excuse that other countries do.

Yilmaz noted that despite its partially ambiguous clauses, limited span, and the fact that it does not envision any measures against countries using chemical weapons, the 1925 Geneva protocol is still valid and there is benefit in taking it into consideration.

Yilmaz continued: Turkey does not possess any chemical weapons and would not consider having any. Turkey favors an effective and early agreement that will ban the development, production, storage, transportation, and use of chemical weapons.

Stressing that Turkey does not want the conference to be transformed into an international court, Yilmaz said that good resolutions for the future should be reached, taking into account the incidents of the past. He called for the conference's final communique to be a political document acceptable to all countries, to be concise and comprehensive, and for it to enhance the existing Geneva protocol and renew trust in international resolutions.

After his address, Yilmaz met with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar. In a statement following the meeting he said that he and Loncar discussed cooperation in the Balkans within the framework of the two meetings on economic issues to be held in Albania on 18 January and later on in Turkey. He added that he also briefed Loncar on Turkish views on Cyprus.

In response to questions by journalists on rumors that he will resign his post, he said: I am still the foreign minister and I feel completely [word indistinct]. I will deal with this issue when I return to Turkey.

Yilmaz was expected to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens as this report was prepared.

UNITED KINGDOM

Foreign Office Aide Welcomes Soviet Announcement on CW Destruction

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in English 1634 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Text] Britain gave a guarded welcome today to an announcement that the Soviet Union is to start destroying its chemical weapon stocks this year.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, told a 140-nation chemical warfare conference in Paris that it would happen even before an international convention banning production and possession of poison gas was reached.

Later Mr William Waldegrave, minister of state, Foreign Office, was asked on the BBC Radio Four "The World This Weekend" programme whether he thought the United States would reciprocate.

He replied: "The boot has very much been on the other foot in recent decades.

"The United States stopped making chemical weapons for a long period. Sad to say that during that long period—but before Mr Gorbachev came to power—the Russians steamed ahead developing new chemicals.

"If they are going to join in opening up the information about what they have as a first step towards destruction, that is extremely welcome and that is a key thing that could take forward a real convention in Geneva."

Earlier he was asked whether he could elaborate on the independent evidence Britain claimed to have that the Al Rabitah factory in Libya was for the production of chemical weapons.

He replied: "It is the classic situation of intelligence information where if you give too much detail about it, it is clear to the people who are trying to keep the secrets where the information is coming from and you don't get any more information.

"I can assure you the information is good and we would not have gone so public about it if there was any doubt."

Mr Waldegrave is due to address the Paris conference tomorrow.

"What I am going to be saying is that the focusing of international concern both as a result of the Gulf war and as a result of this latest development in Libya, can produce, if we play our cards right, the sort of political momentum and impetus needed to take forward the talks in Geneva," he said.

He added that the talks had been progressing well on a technical level. "They now need a big shove from the highest political level to get a proper international ban agreed."

Mr Waldegrave said that if a proper, verifiable convention could be achieved, the argument that countries give that they must rearm because their neighbours are, will become lessened and unnecessary.

"We may get the genie back in the bottle," he added.

Meanwhile, shadow defence minister Mr Roland Boyes, described the Soviet announcement as "terrific news". He said he hoped the United States would follow suit.

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